



St. Mary's Church,
Alderley
**Holy
Communion at
Christmas**

Welcome to worship

We sing a hymn

The Collect for Purity

**All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify
your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Invitation to the General Confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

General Confession

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and
truth: forgive our failure to receive
him.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in
a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection
of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded
joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our
hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *you* to himself
and cleanse *you* from all *your* sins,
that *you* may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect for Christmas

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A reading from the Bible

We sing a hymn

A reading from one of the Gospels

The Sermon

The Apostles Creed

**I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.
Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour,

All: hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Saviour,

All: hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, Saviour,

All: hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Saviour,

All: hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,

All: hear our prayer.

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,

you know us and love us,

you share our lives

and hear our prayer.

Glory to you for ever. Amen.

<p>We sing a hymn. You are invited to make an offering.</p>
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The Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me".

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me".

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,

until you come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All ***Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.***

Agnus Dei

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.

The priest and people receive Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen

The Blessing

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and evermore.

Amen.

We sing a hymn

Common Worship, Order One, Christmas

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