



**The Benefice of
Alderley & Birtles
The Family Service
in the Season of
Christmas**

We sing a hymn or Christmas carol

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.

We may say one of the Psalms that is set for today

The Introduction to the Bible reading/s

One or more readings from the Bible

We sing a hymn or Christmas carol

One or more readings from the Bible

The Address

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.**

We sing a hymn or Christmas carol

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

We sing a hymn or Christmas carol

The Blessing

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