



Christmas: God. Here. Face to face.  
Look in my eyes.  
Restless people welcome.

MELLOW WORSHIP † HOLY COMMUNION

## “The 5<sup>05</sup>”

Saturday – 5:05pm

Eve of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Nativity

**Prepare for Worship.** Breathe in Christ’s Peace, God’s presence.  
Breathe out tension and worry. Dis-cover a spirit of worship.  
Please light prayer candles for those you hold in your heart and mind.

Thank God you are here.

☪ ←**This kind of spiral invites you** (*any of us here*) **to read aloud.**  
You may prefer simply to rest & listen. Don’t worry. Our worship unfolds  
in God’s time. If you speak at the same time, you can continue together.



### Centering Bell

sitting

As the ringing fades, we empty ourselves to welcome God in quietness & trust.

We encourage each other to mark physically the transition to worship:

Breathe deep. Hold. Release it all.

Make perhaps the sign of the cross, prayer hands, or touch finger to thumb.

## Opening Prayer & Acclamation sitting

*adapted from WorldinPrayer.org \**

Celebrant Pause, my children, in this space

between Christmas parties, and those of the New Year. ☉

☪ between gift **un**wrapping and cleaning up,  
between longing and thanksgiving,

☪ between endings and beginnings,  
between dismay and joy,  
between Sacred and ordinary...

Celebrant Pause and remember Whose you are, and Whose you will always be. ☉

☪ Pause and remember in Whose name you pray, and  
Whose love you seek, and hold, and give away. ☉

☪ Pause and pray that all may see the world  
with the eyes of wonder of the newborn Christ,  
with the loving heart of God's act of self-giving. ☉

☪ Pause and pray that we may all treat one another  
with the honor and adoration  
that Mary and Joseph,  
shepherds and wise ones,  
angels and all the heavenly choir  
showed to the tiny child. ☉



Celebrant Almighty God,

Collect for 1st Sunday after Christmas, adapted BCP

YOU have poured upon us the new light of YOUR incarnate Word:

ALL **Enkindle YOUR Light in our hearts, so it shines forth in our lives.**

**Proclaiming the Good News** <sup>sitting</sup>

John 1:1-18 NRSV

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to YOU, Lord Christ.**

Reader In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
ALL **and the Word was God.**

Reader He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him,  
and without Him not one thing came into being.

☩ What has come into being in Him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

ALL **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Reader There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as  
a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

☩ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

ALL **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Reader He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him;  
yet the world did not know Him.

☩ He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him.

ALL **But to all who received Him —to all who believed in His name—  
He gave power to become children of God**

Reader —children born,  
not of blood  
or of the will of the flesh  
or of the will of man,  
but CHILDREN. BORN. OF. GOD.

ALL **And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory,**

☩ the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader (John testified to Him and cried out, "This was He of whom I said,  
'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because He was before me.'")

☩ From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Reader The law indeed was given through Moses.

☩ Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

ALL **No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the  
Father's heart, who has made him known.**

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to YOU, Lord Christ.**

## The same Gospel rephrased

John 1:1-18  
*The Message*

### ***Let the Bible read you.***

*In each section, let a word or phrase strike you. Say it in the ensuing pause.*

The Word was first.

...the Word present to God. ...God present to the Word.

The Word *was* God — in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through Him;

nothing—not one thing!— came into being without Him.

What came into existence was Life,

and the Life was Light to live by.

The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in.

John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

*Name aloud a word or phrase that resonates in your soul.*

The Life-Light was the real thing:

Every person entering Life *He* brings into Light.

He was in the world —the world was there *through Him!*

...and yet the world didn't even notice.

He came to His own people. But they didn't want Him.

But *whoever did want Him*

—whoever believed He was who He claimed and would do what He said,  
He made *them* to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.

These are the God-begotten,

not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory,

like Father, like Son: Generous inside and out. True from start to finish.

*Name aloud a word or phrase that resonates in your soul.*

John pointed Him out and called, "This is the One!

The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me.

He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word."

We all live off His generous bounty, gift after gift after gift.

We got the basics from Moses,

and then this exuberant giving and receiving!

This endless knowing and understanding!

All this came through Jesus, the Messiah.

No one has ever seen GOD. — not so much as a glimpse.

This one-of-a-kind God-Expression,  
who exists at the very heart of the FATHER,  
has made HIM plain as day.

Name aloud a word or phrase that resonates in your soul.

## Responding to the Word of God

### A Prayer to Hold with the Gospel

Celebrant Inspiring Word,

Pat Bennett, adapted\*

ALL **move over the chaos within me, calling forth form and order,  
that I may know YOU in my shaping,**

☪ and in this shaping  
may I surrender my life to YOURS.

ALL **Illuminating Word, pierce the darkness within me,**

☪ calling forth insight and understanding,

☪ that I may know YOU in my seeing,

ALL **and in this seeing,  
may I follow the way of YOUR kingdom.**

☪ Incarnate Word, indwell the life within me,

☪ calling forth passion and purpose,  
that I may know YOU in my living,

ALL **and in this living,  
may I embody YOU for the world.**

## Prayers of the People standing unless you have a deep preference for sitting

Celebrant Let us pray for the world, the Church, ourselves, and all God's people.

*Wee Book p.61 adapted + Steven Charleston\**

☪ Lord, we give YOU thanks for all the blessings of this life. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☪ We pray for those who are in hospital, in care, or in a place strange to them or have been brought to our attention through a meeting, a conversation or a prayer list. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☪ For those in whose family, marriage or close relationship, there is a stress or a break-up. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☪ For those who are waiting for a birth, or a death, or news which will affect their lives. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☪ For those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who calls them into life. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☩ We pray for our local communities, the Nation and the world,  
and for those who have made the news headlines this week. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☩ For all seekers, members, leaders and strangers in the Church.  
For the Church universal and God's mission in the world. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

☩ We pray for all who have died ~ remembering their gifts to us and  
seeking reconciliation for our differences. And for all who mourn. ☉

*Offer names or short prayers aloud or in your heart.*

Leader The light shines in the darkness. ALL **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader Almighty God, BCP Collect 1st Sunday after Christmas, adapted  
YOU have poured upon us the new light of YOUR incarnate Word:  
ALL **Enkindle YOUR Light in our hearts, so it shines forth in our lives,**  
**as we reach out to help those for whom we pray.]**

**The Peace** Standing — then circulate & greet.



Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*We greet each other in the Lord's name.*

**Offering** *Our offering here mirrors the way we open our lives  
to participate in the flowing economy of God's grace.*

*As we greet each other, we place our offerings in the basket.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Children (& their people) may come forward to see.

## Offering

ALL **Our life: soul & body —all that we are— we offer to YOU, O Lord.**  
*The basket is lifted in offering to God, and placed on the altar.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

EOW-A & Wee Book p.86ff. adapted

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, for YOU made us, and before us, YOU made the world we inhabit, and before the world, YOU made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

ALL **All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in YOU;  
all that is lovely, all who are loving point to YOU as their fulfillment.**

And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond, we praise YOU for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus whose birth we celebrate over these 12 days.

ALL **For His life informs our living; His compassion changes our hearts;  
His clear speaking contradicts our generalities.**

For His disturbing presence, His innocent suffering, His fearless dying, His rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise YOU and worship Him.

We remember how —as a grown man— on the night before He died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when He had given thanks to YOU, He broke it, and gave it to His friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is MY Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of ME.”

*bells ring*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is MY Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you —and for all— for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of ME.”

*bells ring*



And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils YOUR purpose, we fall silent and remember Him who came because words weren't enough.

Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts, we yearn for the healing, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer.

*silence*

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, YOUR Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, ✠ *Feel free to make the sign of the cross* converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

ALL **Blessing & honor & glory & power be to our God for ever and ever.**

**AMEN.**

*bells ring...*

## The Lord's Prayer

Traditional

**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, and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

☪ With the bread we need for today, feed us.

☪ In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

☪ In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

☪ From trials too great to endure, spare us.

☪ From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

ALL **For YOU reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

NZPB

*These 5 petitions & doxology of the Lord's Prayer are stolen from a version in the New Zealand Prayer Book. Many of their prayers —developed in communion with the Maori people— are striking, relevant and poetic. I learned in Feb.2017 that their bishops request that others NOT appropriate their work & snatch it out of context. We've used it in the 505 since 2011. I find replacements unsatisfactory. I'm a thief—a grateful one. ~emily+*

## Fraction Anthem

Wee Book p.88

Celebrant HE whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread.  
HE who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup.  
So take this bread and this wine.

People **In them God comes to us, so that we may come to God.**

### About Communion

- **GLUTEN-FREE** Communion is available in the crystal box & small chalice. Just point.
- **CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**  
*If you are not baptized or are not comfortable, the priest is happy simply to pray a blessing on you if you come forward.*
- **YOU MAY WISH TO DIP IN TO THE HOLY WATER IN THE FONT TO REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM:**  
*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ~Ps.51:10*

## Prayer after Communion standing

Wee Book p.89, adapted

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALL **In gratitude, in deep gratitude  
for this moment, this meal, these people,  
we give ourselves  
—our little lives, our racing minds & restless hearts— to YOU.  
Take us out to live as changed people  
because we have shared the Living Bread  
and cannot remain the same.  
Ask much of us. Expect much from us.  
Enable much by us. Encourage many through us.  
So, Lord, may we live to YOUR glory,  
both as inhabitants of earth & citizens of heaven. Amen.**

## Blessing

Celtic blessing — EOW p.71

Celebrant God's blessing be with you,  
Christ's peace be with you,  
the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always,  
that you may be Christ's hands & heart in this world. **Amen.**

## Birthdays—Anniversaries—Announcements

- Beautiful contemplative **worship** with chanting and exquisite music in the style of the **Taizé Community** in France, **New Year's Eve 5:30pm** at our **Cathedral**, 1210 Locust St., STL MO 63103

## Centering Bell



*As the sound of the bell diminishes, you may raise your arms, breathing in and gathering the challenges and blessings of this Holy Communion into your hands, into your heart, mind and soul.*

## Dismissal

Celebrant     Our worship is ending; our service continues.  
                  Go in Peace, Light, Hope and Joy to love and serve the lord.

People         **Thanks be to God.**



## Removal of Chairs

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*Help if you like and if you can.*

*BUT if you need some quiet, don't feel obliged to move furniture.*

*Simply move to a pew or the soft quiet space  
of the library to the left as you leave the chapel.  
... Give yourself some space to **BE**. God bless you.*

*Feel free to talk with the priest.*

**Christmas: God. Here. Face to face. Look in my eyes.**

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Sources often used in this liturgy: Bible Translations from Zondervan's biblegateway.com: NRSV=*New Revised Standard Version* most commonly read in Episcopal churches ©1989. MSG=*The Message* translation/interpretation by Eugene H. Peterson ©2002. EOW=*Enriching Our Worship, liturgies of The Episcopal Church*, sanctioned in our diocese. From Wild Goose Publications: Wee Book=*A Wee Worship Book, 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup> Incarnations, 1999&2015*, Iona=*Iona Abbey Worship Book* by the Iona Community, 2001&2016), Thin Place=*Around a Thin Place: Iona Pilgrimage Guide*, 2011. NZPB=*A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*.

\* Infant encounter photo: Creative Commons/Narith5. Opening Prayer from worldinprayer.org as found at re-worship.blogspot.com. Prayer to Hold with the Gospel written by Pat Bennett, from *Hay and Stardust*, Wild Goose Publications, 2009. Posted on Monthly Prayers page of Christian Aid website [www.christianaid.org.uk/](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/).