

The Cathedral Church of All Saints



The Christmas / Epiphany Season

Please save me for next week

Welcome!

I am delighted to have you with us today for this service of worship. Please, stay awhile. Get to know us better. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

We at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, are a diverse lot, from many Christian backgrounds, non-Christian backgrounds, and no faith backgrounds. We come for Christian community, to find God in relationships with neighbours and new friends. We come for lessons from the incredible life of Jesus Christ. We come for spiritual rest, time to think, pray, and center on God, for comfort in hard times, and gratitude in good times. We come to serve God, each other, and the world. We're not perfect. We trust in God's gentle grace and unconditional love. We seek meaning for the life God has gifted us.

You are invited to God's table to receive communion (gluten free wafers are available). We welcome you, no matter who you are, or what you look like, or what labels the world puts on you. We welcome you if, like us, you struggle with flaws and imperfection but have a loving spirit and strive to let the light of Jesus shine within you and then to share it with others. We dare to welcome all because God, and not any human authority, extends this gracious invitation. If you wish not to receive Holy Communion you may still come forward for a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. You are also welcomed to remain seated during this time.

In this leaflet, you will find most everything you need to follow along throughout the service. Whether you have been attending the Cathedral Church your whole life or this is your first time here, you are invited to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing and are able to.

Peace and Joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".

The Very Rev. Paul Smith, Rector,
and Dean of the Cathedral Church of All Saints

The Holy Eucharist ~ a Celtic Liturgy*

Welcome/Announcements

Territorial Acknowledgement

Presider: We begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki , the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

People: We give thanks for this land and all those who have stewarded it; for their stories and for their lives – past, present, and future. We commit ourselves to prayerfully seek reconciliation, justice and healing that we might listen and learn to be faithful stewards of this good land and live in right relationship.

(Land Acknowledgement adapted with permission from The Emmaus Community, Victoria, B.C.)

Opening Hymn {see insert}

The Gathering of the Community

The presiding celebrant greets the community

Leader: Starlight and song
have once again summoned us
home to the stable.

All: And so,
with the beasts of the field,
and the humble and the high,
we have come to gaze
on the face of God.

Leader: Story and supper
have once again drawn us
home to God's table.

All: And here,
through words worn smooth with telling,
and gifts given life through sharing,
may we once again see and know you, Emmanuel –
God with us and for us.

The Collect of the Day {see insert}

The Proclamation of the Word {see insert}

Reader: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us
in the reading of Holy Scripture.

All: **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Scripture Readings

Psalm: {see insert}

Gospel Chant

The Gospel Proclamation

All stand for the Gospel.

Deacon The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,
The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

A silence for reflection may follow.

Affirmation of Belief Affirming the Church's Mission - *(from the Iona Community)*

Leader: That we worship one God; Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, in whose image we are made, to whose service we are summoned, by whose presence we are renewed:

All: **This we believe.**

Leader: That it is central to the mission of Christ that we participate through word and action to rejoice in the diversity of human culture, to preserve the earth in all its beauty and frailty, to witness to the love of God for every person, and to invite all to share in that converting experience:

All: **This we believe.**

Leader: That through the power of the Holy Spirit, the persecuted shall be lifted up and the wicked will fall, the heartfelt prayers and hidden actions of God's people shall change for good the course of human history, the ancient words of scripture shall continue to startle us with fresh insight:

All: **This we believe.**

Leader: That God has called the Church into being to be the servant of the kingdom, to be a sign of God's new order, to celebrate in every land worship which raises our hearts to heaven:

All: **This we believe.**

Leader: That Christ, fully aware of our differences, prays that we may be one so that the world may believe:

All: **This we believe and to this we are committed,
for the love of God, in the way of Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

The Prayers of the People *[these are crafted by the Lay Minister]*

Confession and Absolution

Leader Christmas Child –
becoming flesh, you showed what it was
to serve and share, to live and love, as God intended.

Leader As we stand at the stable door,

People **we confess that all too often our serving and sharing have concealed or mocked your generosity, rather than making it present and plain. *silence/kyrie***

Leader As we stand at the stable door,

People **we confess that all too often our living and loving have displaced or distorted your image, rather than making it present and plain. *silence/kyrie***

Leader Christmas Child,

People **as we kneel again at your manger; restore, renew and reshape us so that our serving and sharing, living and loving may, now and always, incarnate you in the world. *silence/kyrie***

Leader: For all to whom regret is real,

who seek renewal,

God forgives you,

Christ renews you

and the Holy Spirit enables you to grow in love.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

May the peace of the Christmas Child –

the soft peace of a starlit night,

the noisy peace of a crowded stable,

the challenging peace of life and love fully lived and freely shared –
enfold, enrich and energize you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Preparation Hymn {see insert}

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Presider: This is the feast of the Christmas Child –

a place where heaven and earth coincide,

and eternity once more condenses into time

as God is seen and known in the simple and the small,
in story and song, and in bread and wine.

So come –

whether you are drawn by joy or driven by need,
whether you walk with confident step, or stumble on faltering feet,
whether you understand the meaning, or can only wonder at the mystery
– come and gaze on the face of God
for all are welcome in the stable.

The Prayer over the Gifts

All **Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor
to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be a blessing for others.
With the trees of the field,
with all earth and heaven,
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them up to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

Presider: The story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus –
joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh
and entering the constraint of time
to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered
transcend their limitations:

It is the story of Jesus –
seated at a table with his friends breaking bread
(the bread may be broken)

and pouring wine
(the wine may be poured)
to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered
change the world.

It is the story of Jesus –
accepting a kiss and carrying a cross
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared
count no cost.

It is the story of Jesus –
confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared
defy and defeat even death.

It is the story of Emmanuel – God, now and always
with us and for us.

So, as we take this bread and wine –
in remembrance of that life and love – we give thanks
for the healing and hope which spring
from the coming, living, dying and rising of the Christmas Child.
And, with those who gather round his crib,
with the angel choirs,
and the singing planets,
we join in creation's song of joy ...

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Kate Heichler, 2000

All:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord; Ho - san - na in the high est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And as we follow the example of Jesus
send down your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that the story of the Christmas Child –
of life fully lived and freely shared –
may continue on in us and through us,
until the world is transformed.

People **Amen.**

Presider And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated bread for distribution

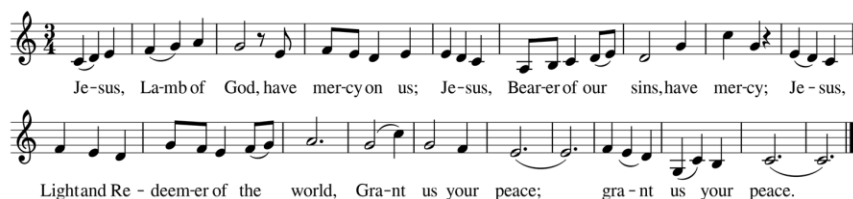
Presider: Emmanuel who came to us in the Christmas Child, and
who comes to us still through the living, loving and sharing of others,
offers these signs of his Presence and invites us to join our story with
theirs.

The presider invites the people to share in communion and may say,

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Kate Heichler, 2004



The Communion



We invite you to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Please take a cup from the table to receive the wine of the Eucharist, you may leave the cup in the tray as you return to your seat. You are also welcome to come forward for a prayer of blessing should you choose not to receive. We are happy to come to you at your seat should you desire.

Hymn during Communion {see insert}

Prayer after Communion

Presider: The starlight and song, story and supper,
which called us home now compel us to go out.

All: May we who have knelt at the manger always have room
to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.
May we who have gazed on the face of God
learn to live fully, and to share freely all that we have and are.
So may Emmanuel – God with us and for us –
be once again incarnated in the world.

The Blessing:

Presider: Now go in peace,
do what God wills, follow where Christ calls,
pray for the gifts of the Spirit;
and the blessing of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
rest on, and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn {see insert}

The Sending *by the Deacon (in these or other words):*

Go forth in the name of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

You will find offering plates at the front and side entrance of the Cathedral. We also have installed touchless “Tap” devices at the main entrance, or you may make electronic donations using the digital QR code below.



Thank you for your support of our Cathedral’s ministries.

***Liturgical Resources:** THE FEAST OF THE CHRIST CHILD

A Christmas communion liturgy from Iona Copyright © Pat Bennett

Stock code: PL10251 ISBN: 978-1-84952-361-5

Wild Goose Publications, 4th Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street,
Glasgow G2 3DH, UK, the publishing division of the Iona Community. Scottish
Charity No. SC003794. Limited Company Reg. No. SC096243

www.ionabooks.com © Pat Benne Non-commercial use: The material in this
document may be used *non-commercially* for worship and group work without
written permission from the publisher.



***Cover Image:** 'Nativity' by Sara Forbush

This image is drawn using one continuous line.

Copyright purchased from SaraForbushArt