



Wednesday 3 January 2024

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# Bread for the World

## *An Informal Eucharist*

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Introit Rise up, shepherd, and follow – arr. Gordon Thornett

Welcome and Opening Prayers Revd Angela Sheard

Creator God,  
Come to us, in the difference of every life gathered  
Come to us in song  
Come to us in word  
Come to us in stillness and silence  
Come to us in our care for one another  
Come to us in bread and wine  
Come to us in flesh and blood  
Reach out across time  
Be present in all time.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Come Jesus, be our guest,  
Stay with us for day is ending.  
With friend, with stranger,  
With young and old,  
With the lost and found  
Be among us tonight  
Our guest our host  
The one who says all – all are welcome here.**

Opening Hymn

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship  
Christ the new-born King,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.***

2     **Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Refrain***

3     **Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:  
*Refrain***

4     **Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:  
*Refrain***

James Montgomery (1771-1854) from *Iris*, 1816 and *The Christmas Box*, 1825

## Prayers of Forgiveness

God longs to be with us. But we often live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Because the world is beautiful but beauty is easily destroyed, we need you.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All     Lord, have mercy.**

Because we often abandon you and turn away and walk past and are afraid and countless times betray you but you love us to the end and win a victory over all hatred, we need you.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All     Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have your message to proclaim, because we have your kingdom to build, because there are so many in need of your love, because we have your life to live.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All     Lord, have mercy.**

And Jesus said "Your sins are forgiven"  
In the name of the Father who created you and waits to welcome you home, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings the healing of forgiveness and calls you to do the same, you have been set free.

**All     Amen.**

## Words on the Edge Luke 2.15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reflection Revd Angela Sheard - Called by name

Anthem The Shepherd's Carol – Bob Chilcott

### Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Concern

Prayer of Hope

*Each prayer ends with 'We pray to you'*

Prayer Chant O Lord hear my prayer

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
when I call ans - wer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O  
Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

## Sharing of the Peace

God of eternal peace, who offers the gift of peace and whose children are the peacemakers; pour your peace into our hearts, that conflict and anger may cease. Peace is the gift of the Risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Let us offer each other a sign of that peace*

*As we sing the hymn, you are invited to gather around the altar.*

## Gathering Hymn

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
*Here I am, Lord.*  
*Is it I, Lord?*  
*I have heard you calling in the night.*  
*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*  
*I will hold your people in my heart.*
- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus*

*(Continued)*

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus***

Daniel L. Schutte (born 1947)

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*Together we pray:*

**All Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill  
each one of us with your love from on high. Gather your people  
from the ends of the earth to feast at your table with all your  
saints.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray each in our own preferred language the prayer our  
Saviour taught us:

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven, is broken for the life of the  
world. The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All Jesus Bread of Life, Bread which is broken, Bread for the world.**

Communion Anthem Go tell it on the mountain – arr. Pete Churchill

Prayer after Communion

**All Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Word for us to speak, You are the Truth for us to tell; You are the Light for us to light in the darkness, You are the Bread of Life for us to share.**

Notices

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.  
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!***
- 2 Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.  
*Chorus***
- 5 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!  
*Chorus***

Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

## Blessing

Go simply, lightly, gently

Go with obedience

Go with love

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

*All*   **Amen.**

Blessing Anthem   Ding dong! merrily on high – arr. Alan Smith

**President and Preacher:** Revd Angela Sheard

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