



Advent Holy Communion inspired by the Iona Community

A bell will ring to mark the start of the service. The ministry team will process into the church during some music.

The Greeting

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

As God's people we have gathered:

let us worship him together.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Advent Candle Lighting

Opening Responses

In this waiting season – in a time between times when living seems restricted

We gather to remember one who embraced constraint while waiting for birth.

In this waiting season – in a time between times when joy seems curtailed

We gather to remember one who shared a feast while waiting for death.

In this waiting season – in a time between times when action seems suspended

We gather to remember one who harrowed hell while waiting for resurrection.

Emmanuel, God with us in the past, as we recount your story

Teach us that waiting is not dead time but a dreaming time through which new ideas and insights are engendered.

Emmanuel, God with us in the present, as we share your supper

Teach us that waiting is not lost time but a liminal time within which new possibilities and patterns take form.

Emmanuel, God with us in the future, as we celebrate your Kingdom

Teach us that waiting is not quiescent time but a quickening time from which new life and love emerges.

Emmanuel,

God with us in all time, as we look for your coming

Teach us how to inhabit this waiting time.

We listen to O Come, O Come Emmanuel

We Say

Sorry

Emmanuel

through your Incarnation you have shown us what it is to live imaginatively, love expansively and act creatively.

We confess that sometimes we have waited without thought and so have stifled fruitful possibility

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess that sometimes we have waited without generosity and so have constricted fruitful connection

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess that sometimes we have waited without hope and so have limited fruitful action

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We confess that sometimes we have simply been too busy or too distracted to wait and so have missed your moment ...

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

And so as we look once more for you, forgive the poverty of our waiting, touch our dreaming, stretch our living and energise our acting that we may be ready for your coming.

Silence is kept

We Hear That We are Forgiven

Our God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
and out of that love God sent Jesus Christ
to die for us that we may be restored to life.
Therefore, as Isaiah proclaimed,
as Mary and Elizabeth proclaimed,
as Simeon and Anna proclaimed,
so too, can we proclaim to one another now:
**God redeems you and restores you,
God loves you and forgives you,
God sees you and claims you!
Amen.**

The Collect

We stay standing if comfortable

Bible Reading(s)

Please sit

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

*The congregation stands and everyone turns to face the
Gospel reader. When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...
Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*At the end of the sermon there is a short period of quiet
reflection.*

The Creed

We stand declare our faith together

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:

**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The leader may use these words at the end of each section

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us

or

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At the end...

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts..

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

The table is prepared and the bread and wine are placed upon it.

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever

Eucharistic Prayer E

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory

for ever praising you and singing:

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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did; in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Saint Luke and all the saints to the feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

On Sundays this is sung. On other days it is said.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

At this time we are sharing the bread only. To avoid confusion and people getting too close to each other please stay in your seat and the Priest will bring Communion to you rather than queuing at the chancel step. If you have hand sanitiser with you and can sanitise your hands at this point it would be helpful.

If you don't normally receive or aren't comfortable receiving the bread at the moment please let the Priest know and they will pray a silent blessing upon you

We receive communion

We are a community gathering online as well as in church. A physical barrier to receiving Communion is no barrier spiritually and so we invite those who have not received the bread to join us in this prayer of Spiritual Communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things and I desire Thee in my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though Thou wert already there, I embrace Thee and unite myself wholly to Thee; permit not that I should ever be separated from Thee. Amen. (St Alphonsus)

We listen to "Wait for the Lord"

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept. The minister may say a post communion prayer.

We pray together

**Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen**

Notices and Birthdays

"Happy birthday to you, to Jesus be true,
May God's richest blessings rest today upon you."

We Are Sent Out

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
and the blessing.....

Amen.

As we await our coming Saviour
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Acknowledgements.

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Publications 2013