

**St Mary's Church,
Chartham**

**Family Communion
for the
First Sunday of Christmas**

Welcome and Greeting

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All: and also with you.

Opening Hymn

Invitation to 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.

cf Matthew 1.21

Silence is kept.

All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Absolution

Leader: May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Please stand to sing **The Gloria**

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The Collect

Leader: Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

***All:* Amen.**

First Reading

Hymn

Gospel Reading

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to ***

***All sing:* Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the reading:

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***All sing:* Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Leader: Let us declare our faith in God.

***All:* We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

And at the end of the prayers

Leader: Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Peace

Leader: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Offertory Hymn

Preparation of the table

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty; by your spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Leader: The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All sing: Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Leader: 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 all the saints
to 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.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Leader: We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All: **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Sharing of Communion

Prayer after Communion

All: **Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Blessing

Leader: Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will;

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Be with you and remain with you always

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: **In the name of Christ, Amen**