

St Stephen's, Canonbury

Christmas Communion 2020

To you in David's town this day a saviour has been born, Christ the Lord.
Glory to God in the heavens and peace to all people on earth

**Lord our God,
On this day of wonder
We gather with angels and shepherds,
To gaze upon the Christ child.
As we open our hearts to the child in the manger,
Be born in us,
That we may sing your praise,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Lighting of Advent and Christmas candles

Confession

The light of Christ has come into the world
To chase away the darkness
And bring reconciliation and joy to birth.
So let us confess our sins.

**Child of Mary,
You were born to carry my sin
and the sin of the whole world.
I confess my failure to
act justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you.
Forgive me and raise me to new-birth,
today and every day. Amen**

May the child who is Emmanuel, God with us,
Forgive you and free you from your sins,
And send you from the stable rejoicing
In all you have seen and heard. Amen

The Christmas Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
maker of all things,
who sent his Son into the world as a frail and tiny child?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son
who, born as a child, suffering as a man,
and rising to glory, has redeemed the world?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
By whose power the infant Christ was conceived,
and who gives life to the people of God?
We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions

Reading

Reflection

Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
As you laid in Bethlehem's manger,
Walked the earth, and sat at table with your friends,
So may you be revealed here in bread and wine this day.
Through the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
May these gifts be to us your body and blood,
That we may be filled with your life
And born again to serve you in holiness and truth. Amen

Lord our God, on this holy day we give you thanks
that in the fullness of time your incarnate Word came among us.
Born into darkness, he revealed your light
and touched the earth with the glory of heaven.
We gather in Bethlehem's stable with Mary and Joseph,
angels and shepherds, wise travellers and the host of heaven and say:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

As angels sang glory, shepherds gazed in wonder, Magi bowed their knees
and Mary and Joseph held the Christ-child, God's love was set free
and all were invited to enter in as children of God.
Children born, not of natural descent or of human will, but born of God.

And so, in the fullness of time, the full extent of that love was revealed.
Jesus sat at table with his friends. He took bread, blessed and broke it and
gave it to each saying: 'This is my body broken for you, do this in
remembrance of me.'

He took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to each saying: 'This is my
blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of
me.'

Lord, with joyful hearts we receive these gifts today. May our lives echo the
song of angels, as in word and deed we proclaim,

**Glory to God in the heavens
And peace to all people on earth. Amen**

As Jesus 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.**

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

You are invited to receive Communion

**Heavenly Father, King of all creation,
We thank you for this holy day.
Bless each of us as we celebrate the birth of your Son,
Fill our homes with your light and peace,
and surround us with your love,
that we may know in our hearts the true joy of Christmas. Amen.**

May the eagerness of the shepherds,
the joy of the angels,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, this day and always. Amen

Go in the peace of the Christ child, to love and serve the Lord;
In the name of Christ. Amen.