

The Parish Church of St John  
in the Yealands

# The Seasons of Christmas & Epiphany



## The Eucharist

*(Please do not remove this booklet)*

## ***Welcome to St John's Church and to our worship today***

We gather as God's people to celebrate together the Eucharist. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek for 'thanksgiving' and it is thanksgiving for all that God has done for us that lies at the heart of this celebration. We respond to God's love for us by singing God's praises, by asking for forgiveness, by listening to God's Word in the scriptures, by praying for the world and by taking bread and wine as Jesus told us to do in remembrance of him. Through the Word and the Sacrament the living God revealed in Jesus the Christ is present in a very real way to feed and sustain God's pilgrim people.

- If you are new to the church please make yourself known to the Vicar, or to one of the Welcomers or Churchwardens.
- If you have small children with you a children's space is available in the north aisle.
- The Church is fitted with an induction loop for the hard of hearing. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position.
- During the service please use whichever posture is most appropriate and comfortable for you. For instance, please feel able to remain seated when others are standing.

Thank you for your financial support of God's Church here at St John's. If you wish to make a donation at this service on Sunday, the collection is received during the offertory hymn. If you give online small cards are available to place in the collection basket to represent your giving.

If you wish to give online on Sunday please use the SumUp contactless card reader at the back of the church.

# ***The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany***

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, God coming to God's world as one of us, as a human. This season emphasises the human birth of Jesus the Christ, on his appearance to the 'poor' (Joseph, Mary, the shepherds).

Epiphany means 'manifestation' or 'revealing'. During this season we reflect on the great stories that tell of Jesus being revealed as the one who is the Christ for all the nations. It celebrates the universality of the Church. The Feast celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> January focuses on the visit of the Magi to the Christ-child. The season also includes the stories of the Baptism of Christ and the wedding in Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle. The season ends with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as Candlemas).

## ***The Structure of the Service***

The priest and people

### ***The Gathering***

- ◆ greet each other in the Lord's name
- ◆ confess their sin and are assured of God's forgiveness
- ◆ keep silence and pray a Collect

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

- ◆ proclaim and respond to the word of God
- ◆ pray for the Church and the world

### ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

- ◆ exchange the Peace
- ◆ prepare the table
- ◆ pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- ◆ break the bread
- ◆ receive communion

### ***The Dismissal***

- ◆ depart with God's blessing

# ***The Gathering***

*The people may be greeted informally and a **hymn** may be sung.*

## **The Greeting**

*The presiding minister may say*

We meet in the name of the living God,  
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The presiding minister continues*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*(or)*

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

**All and also with you.**

*Further words of introduction may be said.*

## **Prayer of Preparation**

*This prayer may be said*

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*A minister introduces the confession with these or other suitable words*

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

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*

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

*cf Titus 2.11-14*

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

*With suitable penitential sentences before each bidding*

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*The presiding minister pronounces the absolution and all respond boldly*

**All Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

*The following may be said or sung*

**All 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.**

*(or)*

**Glory in the highest, to the God of heaven!  
Peace to all your people on the earth be given!  
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,  
singing Alleluia to our heavenly King.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!  
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!  
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,  
show us now your mercy, Lord receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,  
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne,  
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores,  
in the Father's glory all the praise be yours.**

*The presiding minister introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

**All Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **Readings**

*Either one or two readings precede the Gospel reading.*

*At the end of each the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Between the readings a **psalm** may be read with a response to say together; a **hymn** may be sung after the readings.*

### **Gospel Reading**

*An acclamation heralds the Gospel reading using the following or other suitable words*

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

*cf John 1.14*

**All Alleluia.**

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

*cf 1 Timothy 3.16*

**All Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

*After the sermon we keep a short time of quiet.*

**The Creed**

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**



**He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*A minister introduces the prayers with these or other suitable words*

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness  
and into his own marvellous light.

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

*The prayers may include the response*

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

*(or)*

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*and end with:*

Merciful Father,

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

# ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

## **The Peace**

*The presiding minister introduces the Peace with these or other suitable words*

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9.6*

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

*and then says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

## **Preparation of the Table**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

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

*The presiding minister takes the bread and wine.*

*Prayers at the preparation of the table may be said.*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The presiding minister says*

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister praises God for God's mighty acts and all respond*

**All 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.**

*The presiding minister recalls the Last Supper,  
and one these acclamations may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Christ is the bread of life:  
**All When we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death,  
Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

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

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly*

...in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

...for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The presiding minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*(or)*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*The Agnus Dei may be said or sung*

**All 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**

*(or)*

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sin,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The presiding minister says the following invitation to communion*

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion;  
to receive the bread, please hold your hands out in front of you;  
to receive the wine, please guide the chalice to your lips.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing then please come forward and carry this booklet  
or keep your arms by your side so the minister knows.*

*Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine). Those who wish to receive  
communion in one kind (bread only) are assured that the Eucharist contains the  
full presence of Christ in both the bread and the wine.*

*During the administration of communion, anyone who does not wish to receive communion is invited to give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with them now using the following prayer*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.*

*One of the following prayers is said*

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

**All Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The Diocesan Vision Prayer is said*

**All Heavenly Father,  
we embrace your call for us  
to make disciples,  
to be witnesses,  
to grow leaders  
and inspire children and young people.  
Give us eyes to see your vision,  
ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit  
and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son,  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**



## ***The Dismissal***

*Notices are given.*

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The presiding minister pronounces the blessing using the following  
or other suitable words*

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

*(from Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany)*

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

**All Amen.**

*(or)*

*(from the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation)*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing ...

**All Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*(or)*

Go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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