

*(Please stand)*

### **Greeting**

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.



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

***And also with you.***

### **Hymn No. 152 (Celebrations)**

*Come and join the celebration,  
it's a very special day;  
come and share the jubilation,  
there's a new-born King today.*

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,  
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lies before them:

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,  
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

'God is with us!' - round the world the message bring;

he is with us - 'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing:

### **Opening Responses**

Even if we cannot gather in person,  
***Emmanuel, God with us.***

Even if some Christmas traditions have had to go,  
***Emmanuel, God with us.***

Even if we might not get to hug family and friends,  
***Emmanuel, God with us.***

Even if we cannot sing carols beside each other  
***Emmanuel, God with us.***

Even if Christmas cheer is harder this year  
***Emmanuel, God with us.***

### **The Collect of the First Sunday of Christmas**

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 and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. ***Amen***

## The Ministry of the Word

*(Please sit)*



### The Reading - Luke 2: 15-21

15 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.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Sermon

### Hymn No. 159 - (In dulci jubilo)

Good Christians all, rejoice  
 with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 give ye heed to what we say;  
 Jesus Christ is born today,  
 ox and ass before him bow,  
 and he is in the stable now,  
 Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
 with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 now ye hear of endless bliss:  
 Jesus Christ was born for this;  
 he has opened heaven's door,  
 and all are blessed for evermore.  
 Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
 with heart, and soul, and voice;  
 now ye need not fear the grave:  
 Jesus Christ was born to save:  
 calls you one, and calls you all,  
 to gain his everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save!

*(Please remain standing)*

### Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Christmas.  
 We believe that the words of the prophet  
 that speak of justice to the oppressed,  
 and the care for the widow,

are God's Word that sets the world free.

For love came down at Christmas.

***We believe in Christmas.***

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the light of the world that crushes all darkness and exposes all lies

is God's light that shines through every darkness.

For love came down at Christmas.

***We believe in Christmas.***

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the song of the angels

that celebrates peace on earth and to all people on the earth,

is God's peace that the world cannot find but Jesus can offer.

For love came down at Christmas.

***We believe in Christmas.***

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that Mary's poem

Magnificat, where God turns everything upside down,

where the poor are lifted up and the powerful are brought down,

is God's poem that changes the balance of the world.

For love came down at Christmas.

***We believe in Christmas.***

***We believe in Christmas.***

***We believe the Word become flesh,  
the promise is fulfilled,***

***the light breaks through,  
the oppressed are set free,  
the lowly are lifted up  
and the baby cries.***

***For love came down at Christmas.***

***We believe in Christmas.***

*[Roddy Hamilton, Spill the Beans]*

### **Hymn No. 170 (Gartan 1)**

Love came down at Christmas,  
love all lovely, Love divine;  
love was born at Christmas,  
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus:  
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine,  
love to God and all men,  
love for plea, and gift and sign.

*(Please kneel or sit)*

### **The Prayers**

God, in your mercy,  
***hear our prayer.***

Let us sum up our prayers and praises  
in the words which Christ has taught  
and say:

***Our Father...***

**The Blessing**

Emmanuel,  
 God-with-us,  
 bless us and caress us,  
 this Christmas-time  
 and all the days of our lives.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)**

[Verses 1, 2, 5, 7b]

1. O come all ye faithful,  
 joyful and triumphant;  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 come and behold him

born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 Christ the Lord.*

5. Child, for us sinners  
 poor and in the manger,  
 fain we embrace thee, with awe and  
 love;  
 who would not love thee,  
 loving us so dearly?

7b. Yea, Lord, we bless thee,  
 born for our salvation,  
 Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing:

*May the hope, the joy, the love and the peace of Jesus Christ be  
 with you and all your family this Christmas-time and always.*

