

THE BROOKE BENEFICE



ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
FAMILY COMMUNION
ON
CHRISTMAS DAY

Greeting

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

Hear the word of St Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.
We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Welcome

Carol *Please stand*

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

The Reading *Please sit*

Short Talk

Carol

Please stand

The Creed

Let us declare our faith

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

Confession and Absolution:

Please sit

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:

forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for our families.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer.

Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for those who are homeless and for refugees.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer.

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for God's creation; for all who seek to protect and nurture it.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for all nations and races and peoples.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer.

Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for those in particular need at this time.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer.

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever.
Amen.**

Offertory Carol

Please stand

*A collection will be taken during this carol
for the work of the Church in the Brooke Benefice*

The Offering

Let us pray.

**Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives, to be used in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

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.

Please sit

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "this is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

So Father, with his bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another; as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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

The Invitation

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

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

*Everyone is welcome to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing.
If you are used to receiving Holy Communion
please come forward and do so today.*

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was born as one of us; may the light of faith light up our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen

Carol

Please stand

The Blessing

May the Lord bless your life with simplicity and peace,
may your homes be full of life and joy.

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

Amen.

The Dismissal

This day Christ is born:

Alleluia.

This day the Saviour comes:

Alleluia.

This day the angels sing on earth:

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.