THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT ANDREW OLD HEADINGTON

WORSHIP AT HOME IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

While public worship is suspended we will provide a liturgy to help you worship at home, and feel connected to others who are doing the same.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. Contemporary use has sought to express an alternative tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February.

Each week, in preparation for Sunday, you will find the pew sheet with the readings and a homily on the church website and on Facebook. The pew sheet will also be sent via the parish email news (you can subscribe to this by sending an email to parishoffice.headington@gmail.com
Please feel free to use some Christmas music as part of your worship. Where it says **Hymn** is only a suggestion.

We also encourage you to join in the service broadcast by the Diocese of Oxford at 10am each Sunday.
You can find it here
https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/

Even in this time when we cannot gather to celebrate this service in church together, we believe that Christ is with us in his Word, drawing us together by his Spirit as one before God. And we believe and trust that the gospel of Christ gives us strength amid distress, and comfort in the face of our sufferings.

Choose a space in your home which is peaceful and create your own worship space. Candles, and / or a cross can help to make the space feel special.

If you are worshipping with someone else in your household think about how you will share out the elements of the service. For example, where there are numbered verses you might say them by alternate verse.

You will find some options for intercessions at the back of the booklet but feel free to use silence as well. Sometimes you might also like to try a version of the Lord's Prayer that you are less familiar with!

If you would like any more resources please contact any of the clergy.

Welcoming the Light of the World

As you light your candle you may wish to say

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
upon them the light has dawned.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You laid the foundation of the earth
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

This prayer of thanksgiving is said

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn

Penitence

This form of confession is used

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.
Amen.

This prayer for forgiveness is said

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm

You will find the psalm with the other Sunday readings.

At the end you may say

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

You may use as many of the provided readings as you wish.
The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.
You may wish to intersperse them with the hymns and music suggested in the Sunday booklet.

After all the readings this responsory may be used

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

from 1 John 1

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said

To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

Glory to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.

Hymn

Prayers

Intercessions are offered
¶ *for the day and its tasks*
¶ *for the world and its needs*
¶ *for the Church and her life*

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day or the following is said

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 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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour 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.

(or)

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

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 Conclusion

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Resources for the Prayers

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus, Saviour,
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.

A time of open or silent prayer may follow.
Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.

(or)

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

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth…

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness...

Everlasting father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities...

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness
and peace.

Everlasting Father,
in your Incarnation heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Keep in safety all those who have passed through death
in the hope of heaven.

God our Father,
angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

A time of open or silent prayer may follow.
Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.

(or)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, at Christmas your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At Christmas there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

At Christmas Mary in the pain of labour
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

At Christmas your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

At Christmas the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our world.

At Christmas shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

At Christmas strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

At Christmas heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Keep in safety all those who have passed through death
in the hope of heaven.

At Christmas Christians the world over celebrate his birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Father, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A time of open or silent prayer may follow.
Then return to the service to pray the Collect and Lord's Prayer.

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