



CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN VIENNA

KIDS' CHURCH NATIVITY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18 DECEMBER 2022

ORGAN PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

HYMN: CHRISTMAS IS COMING

*'Christmas is coming,
The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles
Brightly burn in a ring.*

- 1 The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.

*'Christmas is coming,
The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles
Brightly burn in a ring.*

- 2 The second is for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

*'Christmas is coming,
The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles
Brightly burn in a ring.*

- 3 The third is for the Baptist,
who cried, 'Prepare the way!
Be ready for Jesus
both this and every day.

*'Christmas is coming,
The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles
Brightly burn in a ring.*

- 4 The fourth is for the Virgin
who mothered God's own Son
and sang how God's justice
was meant for everyone.

*'Christmas is coming,
The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles
Brightly burn in a ring.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

GREETING

In the name of the living God: Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Jesus leads us out of darkness:
To live in his glorious light.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

CONFESSION

We have come into the presence of God to reflect on the meaning of Christmas for our lives and to prepare for Christ to be born anew into our hearts and minds this Christmas. But first, let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ loves us.

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.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT

The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR JESUS

from Jesus' Christmas Party

by Nicholas Allan

adapted by Melinda May

AWAY IN THE MANGER (first verse Kids' Church children only)

2 **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

HYMN: COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION

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

1 **See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them:**

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

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

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

- 3 'God is with us,' round the world the message bring,
he is with us, 'Welcome,' all the bells on earth are pealing:

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

SERMON

CREED

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

INTERCESSIONS

A member of the congregation offers prayers.

PEACE

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN 81

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.
- 4 For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.
- 5 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;

and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

- 6 **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic 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.

Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Listen, and we will hear.

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 sun and moon and star-lit sky,

everything that gives us light,

light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

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.**

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.

Why do we share this bread and wine?

Listen, and we will hear.

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 this 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.

How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Listen, and we will hear.

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 Mary and Joseph,
Zechariah and Elisabeth
and Simeon and Anna and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**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.**

INVITATION

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

The celebrant distributes communion.

HYMN 88

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
this, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him praise
the babe, the son of Mary.**
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,
his love all loves exceeding:
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,**

**the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

- 3 **So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let every heart enthrone him:
raise, raise your song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby,
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**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.**

BLESSING

The celebrant may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing:

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
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 Almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMN 42

- 1 **Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***
- 2 **Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***
- 3 **Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

- 4 **Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
*Shine in your church gathered today.***
- 5 **Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
*Shine in your church gathered today.***

DISMISSAL

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Noel "*Ou s'en vont ces gais bergers*"
Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT

This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

The Eucharistic Prayer is from:

The Archbishops' Council, *Common Worship: Additional Eucharistic Prayers - with Guidance on Celebrating the Eucharist with Children* (London: Church House Publishing, 2012).

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are taking a collection during all of the services in the church building through the offering plate and through a tap and pay card reading system at the back of the church. PayPal and standing orders are also possible through our website or by contacting the church Treasurer. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.