

Wighton Christmas Eve Carols and Communion

Introduction & prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading 1 The angel Gabriel visits Mary

Carol 1 Once in Royal David's City

Reading 2 Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

Carol 2 Silent Night

Reading 3 The Shepherds go to the Manger

Carol 3 The First Nowell

Reading 4 Wise men follow a star

Carol 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading 5 St John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

Carol 5 O Come, all ye Faithful

Prayer and Blessing

Those who do not wish to stay for communion are invited to leave.

Prayer of preparation

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.

Prayers of Penitence All kneel or sit

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with 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.

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.**

The Peace

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

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Here follows an extended Preface or the following:

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,

with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the
earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and
ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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.**

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.**

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.

The bread is distributed

Carol 6 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Prayer after Communion

**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.**

Prayer and Blessing

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas