

Christmas Eve 2017

Midnight Communion Service

*Welcome to this special occasion, jointly hosted by
St James, St Alban's and Mitcham Lane Baptist Church.*

Service being led by Rev Johan Allen
with Rev Rob Powell speaking.

INTRO VIDEO: God with Us

WELCOME



**ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF
GLORY,**

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creations story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing.
Yonder shines the infant light!

Sages, leave your contemplations!
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star;

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear.
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His Temple shall appear:

James Montgomery

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**

CONFESSION



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.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your
children.

We have sinned:
Forgive and heal us.

The virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

Forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of
your ways.

We have sinned:

Forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of
vision.

We have sinned:

Forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

Forgive and heal us.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of all healing and
forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of
his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

TIME IN THE WORD



The New Testament reading is from
Luke 2 v 1-20 on page 1027 of the
Church Bibles.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

TALK: Rev Rob Powell



IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow;
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved,
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him -
Give my heart.

Christina G. Rossetti Public Domain



PRAYERS

THE PEACE *Let us share with one another a sign
of peace.*



Unto us a child is born,
Unto us a Son is given:
And his name is called the Prince
of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always
with you
And also with you



SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon virgin mother and child,
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!'
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light,
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 after J. Mohr, J. F. Young Public Domain

THE COMMUNION 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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
 Lord God of truth, for by the breath of
 your mouth you have spoken your word,
 and all things have come into being.

*You fashioned us in your image
 and placed us in the garden of your
 delight.*

*Though we chose the path of rebellion
 you would not abandon your own.*

*Again and again you drew us into your
 covenant of grace.*

*You gave your people the law and
 taught us by your prophets to look for
 your reign of justice, mercy and peace.*

*As we watch for the signs of your
 kingdom on earth, we echo the song of
 the angels in heaven, evermore 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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
 enthroned in splendour and light,
 yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
 you revealed the power of your love
 made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed
 us the way of salvation; loving us to the
 end, he gave himself to death for us:
 dying for his own, he set us free from the
 bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign
 with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
 he took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
 saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given
 for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper
 he took the cup and gave you thanks;
 he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he
 suffered on the cross, we celebrate his
 resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
 we rejoice that he reigns at your right
 hand on high and we long for his
 coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of
 our redemption, Father, by your Holy
 Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to
 us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
 Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ
 and make us a perfect offering in your
 sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit

Look with favour on your people and in
 your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord:

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen

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**

THE BREAKING OF 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.**

THE INVITATION

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, please
come forward for a prayer of blessing.*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*After everyone has received Communion, we say
together:*



**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**



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!*

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten,
not created:

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing, in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God, In the highest!'

Yea Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning
Jesus, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

18thC. Tr. F. Oakley, W.T. Brooke & others

THE 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
through the coming year.
And the blessing of God
almighty.....

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen