

A Quiet Christmas Service

Blessing:

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

All: Amen

Dismissal:

Minister : Unto us a child is born.

All: Unto us a son is given.

Minister: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.



Gathering

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Introduction and welcome to the service

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shown. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, acknowledging that life may not be as we wish at this time we ask that you hear our prayer in this Advent season for peace for the past, strength for today, and courage for tomorrow; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who shares our life in sorrow and joy, in despair and promise, in death and rebirth.

All: Amen.

Carol: Silent night

Time of Prayer

The response in the prayers to 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light' is
'Thanks be to God'

Minister: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayer of these your people. Grant to all, especially to the bereaved, anxious and troubled this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. **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**

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

We take a moment to remember those in need of our prayers today and name them aloud or in the silence of our hearts

All: Show us, O Lord, the ways in which we should walk. Give us all inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to see your will for us and to persevere, and renew in us the power of the Holy Spirit to perform the service you set before us. Amen.

Fourth Candle

Minister: We light the fourth candle to renew in us all the gift of hope which God offers to us through the birth of Christ; a hope that does not deny the agonies of the world, but a hope which sustains our trust in God's promise to be with us.

A moment of quiet personal reflection

All: O God, whose Spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, lift our hearts, we pray, to a deep confidence in your care. Teach us to know that the light of your goodness shines upon all our darkness.

Where there is love in life, help us to discover it, trust it, and grow in its power. So may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others, we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world Amen.

Lighting of candles

*The Minister extends the invitation to light a candle
Please maintain silence during lighting of candles*

Liturgy of the Word

Psalms 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

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

A Poem

'Love Soars Where Eagles Cease To Fly'

By Andrew E Pratt

A short period of silence

A reading from the Gospel of John Ch 1:1-5

Lighting of the Advent Candles



First Candle

Minister: We light this first candle to remember loved ones who have died. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, and we hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives.

We take a moment to remember those who have died and name them, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

All: O God of love, we commend to you our loved ones who have died. Accept our thanksgiving as we entrust them to your everlasting care. We ask that your presence will uphold us in this season as we miss them, that we may find joy in the people around us and in the beauty of your reborn creation. Amen.

Second Candle

Minister: We light this second candle to redeem the pain of other losses - the loss of relationships through divorce or separation, the loss of jobs and the security they bring, the loss of good health in ourselves or our loved ones, and the loss of joy in our lives. As we gather all our losses, we offer them to God, asking that into our open hearts God will place the gift of peace.

We take a moment to remember our losses and name them, aloud or in the silence of our hearts

All: O God of compassion, we come before you in need of inner peace. Although we desire to place our trust in you, our hearts are often fearful and anxious. We forget that you will be with us, even to the ends of the earth. Teach us to be patient with the changes and chances of our lives and to be ever keenly aware of your presence and guidance. O Prince of Peace, draw near! Amen.

Third Candle

Minister: This third candle we light for ourselves and others who long for a sense of God's purposes for them. We remember those who are outcasts in our society: the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the imprisoned and we place into the hands of God all who are feeling directionless, isolated or rejected at this time.

