



ST PETER'S
CHURCH DARWEN



**THE EUCHARIST
FOR THE SEASON
OF CHRISTMAS**



ST PETER'S CHURCH DARWEN

Welcome to worship at St Peter's Church.



If you are unfamiliar with our church, then please feel free to have a look around after the service and join us for refreshments in the Parish Centre.



Please also introduce yourself to one of the clergy or the churchwardens.

Hymn numbers are displayed on the board towards the front of church and readings may be followed on the coloured notice sheet.



Toilet facilities, including changing facilities, are found in the Parish Centre at the back of the Church.



If you have children or little ones, the children's corner is on the right hand-side of Church. There are games, toys, and activities for them to do during the service, but please do go with them.



For those using hearing aids, an induction loop is fitted in church. Large print copies of this order of service are also available in the Parish Centre.



If you require a gluten free wafer at communion, then please let one of the Churchwardens know before the service begins.



If standing is uncomfortable, then please feel free to sit at any point in the service.

ORDER OF SERVICE – THE GATHERING

THE OPENING CAROL

Please stand

THE GREETING AND WELCOME

The service may begin by the Crib.

Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

All Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God.

All and now we see you as a new-born child.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you:

All and also with you.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Please remain standing

Midnight Mass / Christmas Morning

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night / day,
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith

and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All Amen.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Please sit or kneel

(Midnight) 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:

**(Christmas
Season)** The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, you sent your Son, full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy:

All 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:

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy:

All Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

Please remain seated

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE ADVENT WREATH.

Please remain seated

The final candle is lit on the Advent Wreath at Midnight and Christmas Morning, representing Christ the Light of the World.

God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All **Amen.**

We sing: **Advent candles tell their story
on this Christmas Day.**

**Those who waited for God's glory:
they prepared the way.
Christ is with us: loving, giving,
in us living, here today!**

THE GLORIA

Please remain standing

Said Gloria:

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Sung Gloria:

Glory! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing;
Glory! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing:

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Peace to all throughout the earth from heaven in the highest.
Worship, thankfulness and praise, we sing to God our Father.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Jesus, only Son of God, our Lord and Lamb, Messiah.
Mercy, take away our sin, and hear the prayer we offer.

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

THE COLLECT

Please remain standing

The President introduces a period of silent prayer.

The Collect is said, either from below or for the Christmas Season.

Midnight Mass:

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light
on earth to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All *Amen.*

Christmas Morning/Season:

Almighty God, you have given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE READINGS

Please sit

Please sit to listen to the readings.

At the end of each reading the reader says:

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL CAROL

Please stand

THE GOSPEL READING

Please remain standing

We greet the Gospel, which may be heralded by a suitable acclamation.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

We turn to face the Gospel which is read from the middle of the people, to symbolize Christ's teaching among his people.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Please sit

THE CREED

Please stand

The Nicene Creed:

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Sung Creed:

All We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan, earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began. We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

The Affirmation of Faith:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel

One of these responses may be used:

Lord, hear us: *or* Lord, in your mercy.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.** **All** **hear, our prayer.**

At the end:

Merciful Father, *or* Lord of the Church
All **accept these prayers** **All** **hear our prayer**
for the sake of your Son, **and make us one in heart**
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **and mind to serve you**
Amen. **with joy forever. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Please stand

Midnight Mass:

This holy night the angels sang:
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights'
The peace of Lord be always with you:
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Christmas Morning / Season:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of Lord be always with you:
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY CAROL

Please remain standing

A hymn may be sung, as the gifts of the people are collected and presented with offerings of bread and wine, and the altar is prepared.

If you are a taxpayer, please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope found in each pew for your offering.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Please remain standing

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessèd be God for ever.**

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessèd be God for ever.**

All **Pour upon the poverty of our love,
and the weakness of our praise,
the transforming fire of your presence.**
Amen.

or

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All: **Amen.**

or

Blessèd be God who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

All **Blessèd be God for ever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please remain standing

The Lord be with you: **or**
All **And also with you.** **All** The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts:
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation:
in your love, you made us for yourself.
When we turned away, you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

All **You embraced us as your children,**
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.
All **He opened his arms of love upon the cross,**
and made perfect for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed at supper with his friends,
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them saying:
'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me'.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**
his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks and said:
'Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**
his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit, that this bread and this wine
maybe to us the body and blood of your dear son.

All **As we eat and drink these holy gifts,
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole church throughout the world,
we offer you this sacrifice of praise,
and lift our voices to join the eternal song of heaven:

All **Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

[Sung] **Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

or

All **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
[Sung] holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Who was, and is, and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

**Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes,
blest is he who comes in the Lord's name.
Blessèd, blessèd, blest is he who comes,
blest is he who comes in the Lord's name.
Hosanna in the heights of heav'n.
Blessèd, blessèd, blessèd is the Lord.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please sit or kneel

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.

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Please remain seated

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

THE AGNUS DEI

Please sit or kneel

All **O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts and take our sin away.**
[Sung] **O Lamb of God, your grace impart, and let our guilty fear depart,**
 have mercy, Lord, we pray, have mercy, Lord, we pray.

O Lamb of God, our lives restore, our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour and let us live for evermore
in perfect heav'nly peace, in perfect heav'nly peace.

or

All Lamb of God,
[Said] you take away the sin of the world,
[Sung] 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

or

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
[Said] have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

We say together:

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.

or

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

or

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessèd are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*Everyone is invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion
or a Blessing. If you would rather receive a blessing
then please carry this order of service with you.*

COMMUNION CAROLS

Please sit or kneel

Please do join the choir in the singing of the communion carols, or take time to pray and to give thanks for this Eucharist service.

There is a space to light candles after communion and write a prayer in the Lady Chapel.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

Silence may be kept

The Post Communion prayer is said:

Midnight Mass:

God our Father, in the night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

All Father of all, we give you thanks that when we were still far off you met us in your son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Morning / Season:

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

All 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.

THE NOTICES AND PARISH INFORMATION

THE DISMISSAL

THE FINAL CAROL

Please stand

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Please remain standing

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

All And we have seen his glory.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the Wise Men,
the obedience of Mary and Joseph,
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.

All Amen.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

All in the name of Christ. Amen.





ST PETER'S CHURCH DARWEN

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