

Christmastide 2019-2020

GATHERING



ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

promise we have heard

Voice 1:

of deep shadows,

God of all creation,

today we remember the

from your prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in gloom

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land

on them has light shined.

Voice 2: For to us a child is born,
to us an heir is given;
and the government will be
upon his shoulder:

mighty God,

The Prince of Peace.

Leader:
God,

that you are among us.

All:
what it means to be your body

For to us a child is born,
to us an heir is given;
and the government will be

Wonderful, Counsellor, The

The everlasting Father,

We gather as your community, O

waiting again for the sign

Give us a fresh vision of

in this time and place.

Maranatha – come quickly

Lord Jesus. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: As love becomes flesh to live among us,
we learn what it means to love our
neighbors.

People: Yet we forget to comfort those who are
suffering;

and refuse to offer a helping hand
to those who are carrying more than
they can bear.

Leader: We pray for your coming reign of justice and
peace.

People: Yet when we see injustice taking place before
us,

we keep our indignation silently in our
hearts,

rather than defending those who are
mistreated.

Leader: Even as we feel guilty about our many
failures,

we are quick to become smug
about our spiritual successes.

All: Holy Lover, forgive us
when we fail to be love made flesh.

ASSURANCE

Leader: Stars and angels are signs of love incarnate,
reminders of God's forgiving grace,
endlessly poured out for us
and for the healing of the world.

All: Amen

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today
to claim our relationship with you.

We pray for the commitment to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give us with others
here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline
to nurture our relationship with you;
to care for every part of your creation;
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;
and to respond joyfully when you call,
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

our hearts to you and your creation

name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

We open

in the

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go into the world in peace.
 Have courage; hold onto what is good;
 return to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support
 the weak;
 help the suffering; honor all people;
 love and serve God,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy
 Spirit.
 And the peace of God,
 which surpasses all understanding,
 will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.
All: Amen.