

SEEKERS CHURCH
A Church of the Saviour Community
Christmastide

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: God of all creation,
today we remember the promise we have heard
from your prophet Isaiah:

Voice 1: The people who walked in gloom
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep shadows,
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:
wonderful counsellor, the mighty God,
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Leader: We gather as your community, O God,
waiting again for the sign that you are among us.

All: Give us a fresh vision of what it means
to be your body in this time and place.
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.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION

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.

We open our hearts to you and your creation
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

Seekers Church supports many individuals and organizations in need. Donations can be made through PayPal by clicking on the Donate button on the Seekers website or at [PayPal.Me/SeekersChurch](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.seekerschurch.org). While you do not need a PayPal account, Seekers pays a small charge for this service, so checks

*sent to Seekers remain the best option for regular donations.
Checks can be sent to*

*Seekers Church
276 Carroll Street
NW Washington DC, 20012*

COMMUNION

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the heavenly feast,
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.
Here we celebrate God's presence among us,
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once.

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,
sinner and forgiven, we make one circle
of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: Divine Love, we give you thanks
for your abundant and unfailing grace.

People: We give you thanks for the gift of Jesus,
who made your love visible
and showed us how we too
can be vessels for your grace.

Leader 2: We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit
as she lives and moves and breathes among us.

People: We give you thanks for your Church
where, in the company of your people,
we are both nourished and challenged.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall never hunger;

you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night he gave himself up, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,
This is my body,
broken for the healing of the world.
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all.
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit
that these gifts of grain and grape,
and work of human hands
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Unite us with Christ forever
and bring us with the whole creation
to your eternal realm.

SHARE THE ELEMENTS

As a sign of gathering in spirit while scattered, you may want to lift your bread and cup
toward your camera.

Leader 1: The body of Christ, broken for all of us.
Feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Leader 2: The cup of the new covenant, poured out for the
healing of the world.
Drink deeply of it.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,
we give joyful thanks
for your eternal love and healing presence
in our celebration of bread and cup.
Bless this Body of Christ
that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your
servants,
with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

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.
Let us greet one another with signs of peace.

All: Amen.