

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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A CANDLE IS BURNING

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of HOPE in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Christmas Eve -- THE CANDLE OF CHRIST

Reader 1: Advent has been a time of waiting, dreaming, healing, and promise. Our time of preparation is over and we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Reader 2: Each week during Advent we lit another candle on our wreath, and each week the candles glowed and the light shone more brightly.

Reader 1: We have read Bible verses that have spoken to us of God's faithfulness and of the hope and dreams of God's people through the ages. The people waited and dreamed for a Messiah who would bring healing and peace. God's promise was kept. The Savior has come.

Reader 2: God's love has been shown in a most wonderful way: a child has been born. We know him as Emmanuel -- God with us; we know him as Jesus -- the one who saves; we know him as the fullest expression of God's love for us.

Reader 1: Now, we light the Candle of Christ, the candle which reminds us of Jesus. It is the center of this wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives. The light of Christ shines for all to see. *(The Candle of Christ is lit)*

(unison prayer)

Generous God, you have given us a time of preparation to receive again your gift of love and joy and peace and hope. In the birth of the child, Jesus, you have given new life to each of us. May we experience the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, this day, and always. Amen.

The Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
A Form in the Language of the Book of Common Prayer 1962

Lighting of the Advent Candle- A Candle is Burning

Opening Hymn

The Gathering of the Community

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

People: And with thy spirit.

All: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All: Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray

Christmas Eve: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Christmas Day: O 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 our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

*Responsively by the * and prayer at the end together.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *** sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; *** proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *** and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *** he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *** but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *** Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *** ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; *** bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *** let the whole earth tremble before him.**
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: **“The Lord is king! * he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *** let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, *** when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *** and the peoples with his truth.**

Together we pray:

We worship you, God of glory, in the beauty of holiness, and we joyfully proclaim your just and righteous rule, established for all, through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

Tutus 2: 11-14 (NSRV)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ^[a] ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, ^[b] Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Luke 2: 1- 20 (The Message)

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please him. As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's

get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!
The Gospel of Christ All: **Thanks be to God**

The Sermon

Special Music

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this parish, for every city and community and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For those who travel by land, water or air, for the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all who have died, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Remembering all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: **To thee, O Lord.**

Leader: Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt hear their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting; for thou, Father, art good and loving, and we glorify thee through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Silence

Celebrant and People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Offertory Hymn

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Prayer over the Gifts

Christmas Eve All: Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Day: All: Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and forever. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B- Pg 243, BAS

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, who didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, 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."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy

gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be onto us the body and blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

All: We praise thee we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.

Celebrant And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this holy communion may worthily receive the most precious body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

All: 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.**

Silence

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

Prayer after Communion

Christmas Eve: All: Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Christmas Day: All: Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Dismissal

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.

Yes, Jesus is the Reason
For this happy, blessed season
In every dominion where His name is a-dored.
He came here to earth to bring the New Birth
To all who receive Him as Savior and Lord.

He fills us with joy and gladness,
Gives meaning to the madness.
In this world of fear and sadness,
our hope is restored
He came here to earth to bring the New Birth
To all who receive Him as Savior and Lord.

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings for Christmas
And a Christ-filled New Year.

Poinsettias placed at St. Thomas' with love and warmest thoughts

In memory of Beverley and Harold Brister
with love from Leanne and family

In memory of Alvin Hopper
with love from Robyn

In memory of Horace and Elizabeth Meek
with love from the family

In memory of Dawson, Roma, Margaret, and Cory Cole
with love from Gail, Stan, and family

In memory of Jean and Arnold Meek
with love from Joy, Arnold, and family

In memory of William Pidgeon
with love from Laura and family

In memory of Harry, Lottie, and Gordon Locke
with love from Darlene

In loving memory of Johnny and Betty Perry and Victoria Boucher
with love from Jaunita and Dave Boucher

In loving memory of Clara, Claude, Sandy, and Noel Graham
with love from Jane, Peter, and family

In loving memory of Robert Montgomery
with love from the family

In loving memory of Brenda Montgomery
with love from the family

In loving memory of Clayton and David MacLeod
with love from Grace and family

