

Introduction to Worship

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

Worship in Song

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter long ago

Our God heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he
comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels, may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But his mother only in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Belovèd, with a kiss

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what can I give him, give my heart

Confession

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.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother
of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a
manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus
the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned; forgive and heal us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us
to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we
may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made
flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Today

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own
image and yet more wonderfully restored us through
your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in
our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Readings

Hebrews 2.10–18 (*New Testament p1002*)

Matthew 2.13–23 (*New Testament p808*)

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Worship in Song

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that you're my God:

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross. (repeat)

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

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 the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Giving of 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 receive communion

Worship in Song

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For thy holy nativity

O come to my heart Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for thee

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang
Proclaiming thy royal degree
But in lowly birth didst thou come to earth
And in great humility

The foxes found rest and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree
But thy couch was the sod O thou Son of God
In the deserts of Galilee

Thou camest O Lord with the living word
That should set thy people free
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
They bore thee to Calvary

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At thy coming to victory
Let thy voice call me home saying yet there is room
There is room at my side for thee

My heart shall rejoice Lord Jesus
When thou comest and callest for me

Worship in Song

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Evermore be led to thee

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat

As their precious gifts they laid
At thy manger roughly made
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ to thee our heavenly King

Holy Jesu every day
Keep us in the narrow way
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds thy glory hide

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light
Thou its light its joy its crown
Thou its sun which goes not down
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your
Church to live as one family, united in love and
obedience, and bring us all at last to our home
in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Worship in Song

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising all men raising
Worship Him God on high

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Peals through the earth and skies

Blessing

The joy of the angels, the wonder of the
shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child, fill
your hearts this Christmas time; and the
blessing of God, the Father, God the Son and
God the Holy Spirit, be with you now and
always. Amen. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.