

Opening Hymn: Thou didst leave thy throne

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
when thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home there was 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:

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 all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall 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:

Margaret 465 NEH

The Welcome, Notices, Prayers of Penitence, & Gloria

The Collect

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;
for he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Colossians 3: 12–17

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Laudate omnes gentes

Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.

*Sing praise all people,
Sing praise and bless the Lord.*

Taize Community

The Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Luke 2: 41–end

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Prayers of Intercession & The Peace

Offertory Hymn: A great and mighty wonder

A great and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure!

The Virgin bears the Infant,

With virgin honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!

'To God on high be glory,

And peace on earth to men!'

The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high!

And cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

Since all he comes to ransom,

By all be he adored,

The Infant born in Beth'lem

The Saviour and the Lord.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

While thus they sing your monarch,

Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,

Ye oceans clap your hands.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

And idol forms shall perish,

And error shall decay,

And Christ shall wield his sceptre,

Our Lord and God for ay.

Repeat the hymn again! ...

Anthem: In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo *in sweet delight*
let us our homage shew;
our heart's joy reclineth
in praesepe, *in the manger*
and like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio. *in a mother's lap*
Alpha es et O. *you are Alpha and Omega*

O Jesu parvule! *O infant Jesus*
My heart is sore for thee!
Hear me, I beseech thee,
O Puer optime! *O holiest child*
My prayer let it reach thee,
O princeps gloriae! *O Prince of Glory*
Trahe me post te! *Lead me along with you*

O Patris caritas, *the Father's love*
O Nati lenitas! *the mercy of the Son*
Deeply were we stained
per nostra crimina; *through our sins*
but thou hast for us gained
caelorum gaudia. *the joy of heaven*
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia? *Where are joy and gladness?*
Where, if that they be not there?
There are angels singing
nova cantica, *new songs*
there the bells are ringing
in Regis curia: *in the King's hall*
O that we were there!

Arr. John Rutter (1945)

Communion Hymn: See amid the winter snow

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promis'd from eternal years:
Hail, thou ever blessed morn;
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility:
Hail, thou ever blessed ...

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Final Hymn: Ding dong! Merrily on high

Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve-time song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

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