

# Let there be Light!

## *A Liturgy for Communion on Christmas Eve*



### Gathering

Presider: Light shines in the darkness,  
and nothing can extinguish it.

All: **Christ is born.  
The Saviour has come.  
God is with us.**

Presider: The shining light of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us lift up our hearts to God,

All: **In thankfulness and praise,  
We come in worship and wonder.**

### Thanksgiving

Presider: Living God,  
We come this glorious night,  
in anticipation and praise  
of who you are, of all you've done,  
and all you have yet to do.

Scripture records your first words: 'let there be light',  
words which stimulated the birth  
of the world in which we live,  
and into which you gifted us life,  
making humanity in your likeness  
and breathing life into us.

**Creator God,  
Word of God,  
Breath of life,  
We welcome your Light within us.**

But we went our own way,  
playing in the shadows,  
straying from your light,  
and casting ourselves into darkness.

Yet your love and grace for us  
meant you could not leave us grappling in the darkness.  
So you sent Jesus.

‘Let there be Light’ to dwell in the neighbourhood,  
to shine in the shadows,  
to cast out the darkness.

**Light of the world,  
Word made flesh,  
God with us,  
We welcome your Light among us.**

Jesus Christ.  
Son of God.  
Born of Mary.  
You shared our human nature,  
lived and loved as one of us,  
and suffered and died at human hands.

Yet death was not an end,  
but a dawning of a new beginning.  
Bringing forth for all humanity,  
that which was prophesied of old,  
that God would not desert us,  
but will come to redeem us.

For from death you arose,  
and you live forevermore,  
for your light cannot be extinguished.  
'Let there be light.'

**Risen Christ,  
Saviour of the World,  
Our Lord and King  
We welcome your Light to redeem us.**

Gracious God,  
acknowledging our need of your light,  
to shine in the shadows of our lives,  
and the dark places of world,  
we come to remember,  
and to seek your grace.

We take these gifts of bread and wine.  
Holy gifts made with human hands,  
which Jesus offers as symbols of his body and blood:  
Take, eat, this is my body.  
Take, drink, this is my blood.  
Eat, drink and remember me.

Therefore, this Christmas night,  
we welcome once more,  
the light of the world born among us.

Loving God, send down your Spirit,  
that these gifts of bread and wine,  
will be Christ to us.

And by your Spirit let there be light among us, your people,  
may we receive your light with open hearts and lives,  
Shining among us and transforming us by the light of your love.

And may your light draw us to one another,  
that your church might radiate your light in our unity and witness,  
and fill creation with a song of ceaseless praise.

**Hosanna!**  
**Glory to God in the highest heaven!**  
**Light of the world be born among us.**

*The bread and wine are shared*

## **Sending**



**Emmanuel.  
God with us.  
May we who have gathered this night,  
and shared this feast,  
be nourished and sustained  
by your unwavering grace  
and unconditional love.**

**As we journey onward,  
may your light lead us out of the shadows,  
illuminate our darkness,  
and be an ever-present source of hope.**

**Light of the World,  
let there be light,  
always,  
to lead us on.  
Amen**

### ***Acknowledgements***

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