



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN



"to bring light to all nations"

CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION
& EUCHARIST FOR CANDLEMAS

Welcome to this All-Age Eucharist.

Because God's love is for all people, this service is for all people too: people of all ages and backgrounds.

If you or someone with you needs to move or needs a break during the service, you are very welcome to come and go as you need. There are facilities through the door at the back left of the church. It's OK to make a noise and to move about.

Eucharist is a word that means 'giving thanks': and so we're here to share in and celebrate the amazing story of God's love for us - and to say thank you to God together.

Please join in with the words printed in bold.

Opening Hymn

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

All

Everyone is welcomed.

The Gloria

**All glory be to God in heaven,
For peace on earth we sing,
We worship you, we bring you thanks
Our Father, glorious King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, oh Lamb of God,
God's only Son, be praised!
Have mercy, take our sins away,
Receive the prayers we raise.**

**For you alone are God most high,
You are the Holy One!
To Father, Son and Spirit sing:
the glorious Three in One.**

The Collect: the prayer for today

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ:

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **Amen**

Bible Reading

At the end of the reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk

The Creed (tune: *Hyfrydol*)

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers

Confession and absolution

Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world.

He who follows me shall not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

'I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.'
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

'I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me.'
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

'I was sick and you did not visit me,
in prison and you did not come to me.'
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love forgive *us* our sins,
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit
and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Baptism welcome

We pray for those who have been baptised at this time of year.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The Peace

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
The light & peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

Offertory Prayer

Father,
in Christ there has sprung up
a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
All **His spirit is with us**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

It is always right to give you thanks, God our
Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.
You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.
You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And now we give you thanks
because, by appearing in the Temple
Jesus the Word comes near to us;
he searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Therefore we join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God almighty,
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God almighty,
Whose glory fills both heav'n and earth
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord**

**Blessed, blessed, blessed is the one,
Blest is he who comes in the Lord's name,
Blessed, blessed, blessed is the one,
Blest is he who comes in the Lord's name,
Hosanna in the highest heaven
Blessed, blessed, blessed is the Lord**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
 Drink this, all of you.
 This is my blood,
 the new promise of God's unfailing love.
 Do this to remember me.

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

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.
Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We are still for a moment

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.**

If you are used to receiving the consecrated bread and wine you are very welcome to come forward to receive them. If you'd prefer to have a blessing, please keep your hands down when you come forward. During the distribution of Holy Communion some hymns are usually sung.

Prayer after Communion

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

THE PROCESSION:

Hymn

As we sing, the Christingles and candles are lit.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.
Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.
You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.
Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.
As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

As we sing the Nunc Dimittis on the following page, we process to the font at the back of the church.

Nunc Dimittis

**Lord, now let your servant
go his way in peace
your great love has brought me
joy that will not cease:**

**For my eyes have seen him
promised from of old
saviour of all people,
shepherd of one fold:**

**Light of revelation
to the gentiles shown,
light of Israel's glory
to the world made known.**

**Glory to the Father
And his only Son,
With the Holy Spirit
Ever Three in One.**

(Words: J E Seddon/John Harper © Mrs M Seddon/Jubilate Hymns; tune: Caswall)

Conclusion

Father,

we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We stand near the place of new birth.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We turn from the crib to the cross.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We go to carry his light.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

Thanks be to God.



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