

Order of Service - 1st December St Nicholas

Welcome

Opening Song: Come on and Celebrate

Come on and celebrate
His gift of love we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life
We'll shout Your praise O King
You give us joy nothing else can bring
We'll give to you our offering
In celebration praise

Chorus

**Come on and celebrate celebrate
Celebrate and sing
Celebrate and sing to the King
Come on and celebrate celebrate
Celebrate and sing
Celebrate and sing to the King**

CCLI Song # 189511, Dave Bankhead | Trish Morgan
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Presentation of gifts

Call to worship/Opening prayer

LEADER: Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts..
VOICE 1: All our hearts?
VOICE 2: More than our families and friends, our homes,
our jobs, our cars, our computers,?
LEADER: More than all of these
because when we love God with all our heart,
it is that love which influences us
and enables us to act lovingly
towards not only family and friends—
who may be easy to love—

but towards others who may not be so easy to love.
VOICE 1: And we realise that people matter more than things.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Pause for silent reflection

LEADER: Jesus calls us to love God with all our soul
VOICE 2: Our whole being?
VOICE 1: More than anyone or anything we invest energy in?
Music, sport, art, gardening, - any of our hobbies...?
LEADER: More than all of these because when we love God with all
our soul,
it is God's dynamic love which directs how we use our
energy,
our interests, our power.
Who we are and what we do can then be used
to benefit others as well as ourselves.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Pause for silent reflection

LEADER: Jesus calls us to love God with all our mind.
VOICE 2: Surely not all of our mind.
VOICE 1: More than our thirst for knowledge, our learning in
schools and beyond, the books we read,
Our advances in information technology,?
LEADER: More than all these
because when we love God with all our mind,
it is God's creative love which then inspires our thoughts
and our will so that our wisdom and knowledge are
shaped by God's kingdom values of justice and mercy,
love and peace.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Pause for silent reflection

LEADER: Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
VOICE 1: Forgive us, O God, when we go along with society's
concentration
on selfish needs over against selfless deeds.
VOICE 2: Forgive our self-centredness and enlarge our vision
to see all people as neighbours.
All of us loved equally by you.

Pause for silent reflection

LEADER: Merciful God, forgive our weaknesses
and strengthen us with your Spirit
to love you with all our heart, soul and mind
and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.
Help us to know the peace of your forgiving love.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

LEADER: Hear the good news:
God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Those who believe in him are not condemned. (John 3;17,18a)
In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

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Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory,
For ever. Amen

Bible - 1 John 4.7–14 and Mark 10.13–16

Poem (Hymn): Once upon a long ago

1. Once upon a long ago
Very far away,
In the town of Bethlehem
Lying in some hay,
Jesus came for you and me
Bringing heaven's love
As a gift for us to have
From the Lord above.
2. In the town of Myra once
Also long ago,
Lived good Bishop Nicholas
Hair as white as snow.
Nicholas loved Jesus who
Loved and helped us all.
"I will do the same," said he
"Helping great and small."
3. Thankful Bishop Nicholas
Friendly, good and wise;
When he could, helped the poor
Always by surprise.
Rich men came to Nicholas
Bringing wealth to share
So it could be sent to those
Living in despair.
4. We should be like Nicholas
Thankful, good and kind,
Loving those who need our help
All the ones we find.
Jesus and Saint Nicholas
Taught us how to give:
Share but never seek rewards,
That is how to live!

Text: Mike Sherer, [St. Nicholas Eve](#), December 5, 1972
Tune: Traditional Jolly Old St. Nicholas

All age - Enveloped in Love

Hymn/ offering - possibly Scott and Isobel play here and have the children singing with them

Carol - 'Away in a manger'

1. Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay
2. The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh
3. Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

CCLI Song # 38583

Carol: See Him lying in a bed of straw

1. See Him lying on a bed of straw
A draughty stable with an open door
Mary cradling the babe she bore
The Prince of glory is His name

Chorus

**O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord of love again
Just as poor as was the stable then
The Prince of glory when He came**

2. Star of silver sweep across the skies
Show where Jesus in the manger lies
Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world
3. Angels sing again the song you sang
Sing the glory of God's gracious plan
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
Be the Saviour of us all

4. Mine are riches from Your poverty
From Your innocence eternity
Mine forgiveness by Your death for me
Child of sorrow for my joy

Reflection and prayer

Advent Carol: 'O Come, O come, Immanuel'

1. O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

**Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel**

2. O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
3. O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

CCLI Song # 31982

Benediction