



NATIVITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

*House Church
Liturgy*

FOR FAMILIES

stay connected at www.nativity.org.nz



Welcome

FROM THE VICAR

Dear family,

Although it is sad not being able to meet for worship in the church, small group gatherings are not only valid but are a potentially positive way of being the church during this time. Along with the practical considerations of protecting those most at risk and doing that in a unified way, this model allows us to continue to engage in prayer, the scriptures, and faith-sharing, albeit in a different mode. God is present as we continue to gather in this way so let's be open to what he might do among us during this season.

In this service there are questions following the sermon which can be used to guide or support discussion. The service ends with an encouragement to consider as a group what local needs you see that you could help with. While the basic structure of a service is here, don't feel you have to use every part of the service - feel free to supplement parts as you feel comfortable and craft the service to be suitable to those who are attending.

May you be conscious of God's empowering and peace with you during this time. *"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*

Jn 20:21

THE PREPARATION

If you wish, open with a song/s.

The leader says

Grace and peace to you from God
God fill you with truth and joy.

We say together:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may truly love you
and worthily praise your holy name:
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**





PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

We encourage you to share prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude.

We conclude our prayers with the following:

Christ is the good shepherd
who knows and cares for every one of the sheep
in different folds.

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile;
in Christ there is no discrimination
of gender, class or race.

In Christ the poor are blessed,
the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.

Alleluia!

**God of justice and compassion,
you give us a work to do
and a baptism of suffering and resurrection.
From you comes power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received
so that we, and all who love your world,
may live in harmony and trust.**

THE CONFESSION

The leader says

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.
I will confess my sins to the Lord,
I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

We keep silence. Alternatively, if you feel comfortable share any struggles you are facing.

God forgives and heals us.
**We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.**

**Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

The leader says

Hear the word of God to all.
God shows love for us
in that while we were yet sinners
Christ died for us.
Amen.





KIDS' SECTION

We encourage you to play the video found in this week's resources together with the children.

After the video has concluded, ask the children the questions found in this week's resources, or you may choose to ask the following:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?

ACTIVITY

Select activities from this week's resources for the children to work through while the adults continue with Bible readings and sermon.

THE READINGS

We encourage you to use the Gospel reading from the Lectionary for today. Feel free to add in other readings as you wish.

An online version of the Lectionary can be found at www.anglican.org.nz/Media/Files/2022-Lectionary

You may wish to take turns reading portions of the Scripture with your group.

TEACHING AND REFLECTION

Watch this week's sermon video and answer either the following questions or the questions presented by the preacher:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?





PRAAYER

We encourage you to enter a time of prayer for our world, our communities and for each other - which can conclude together with:

**God of mercy,
you have given us grace to pray with one heart
and one voice;
and have promised to hear the prayers
of two or three who agree in your name;
fulfil now, we pray,
the prayers and longings of your people
as may be best for us and for your kingdom.
Grant us in this world to know your truth,
and in the world to come to see your glory.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

We encourage you to share the peace with one another, using creative non-contact ways of doing so!

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

The leader continues

God is here.

We praise God together.

Let us say thank you to God
who has done so much for us.

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it.
All the good we see comes from you.
You have always loved us
but people have not always loved you.
You sent Jesus to show us how to live
and to bring us back to you again.

Amen

We are alive in Jesus.

He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can
all be your people.

And so with thanks we praise you.

Amen

We are alive in Jesus.

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared
a meal with his friends.

There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God.

He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.

“This is my body,” he said.

“Do this, and know that I am with you.”





SHARING THE EUCHARIST CONTINUED

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.

He shared it with them, and said:

"This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you."

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in Him.

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people.

Amen

We are alive in Jesus.

Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us.

Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you and say:

We praise you.

We thank you.

We bless you.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches us we pray

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**



THE BLESSING

The leader shares a common blessing

Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you,
within you to keep you,
before you to lead you,
beside you to guard you,
and above you to bless you.

Amen.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

As you conclude your time together, we encourage you to discuss together any local needs you have identified in your group or wider neighbourhood, and what your response to those might be.

