

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

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, we pray as Christ our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven:**

**Hallowed by 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**

*Hymn 164 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

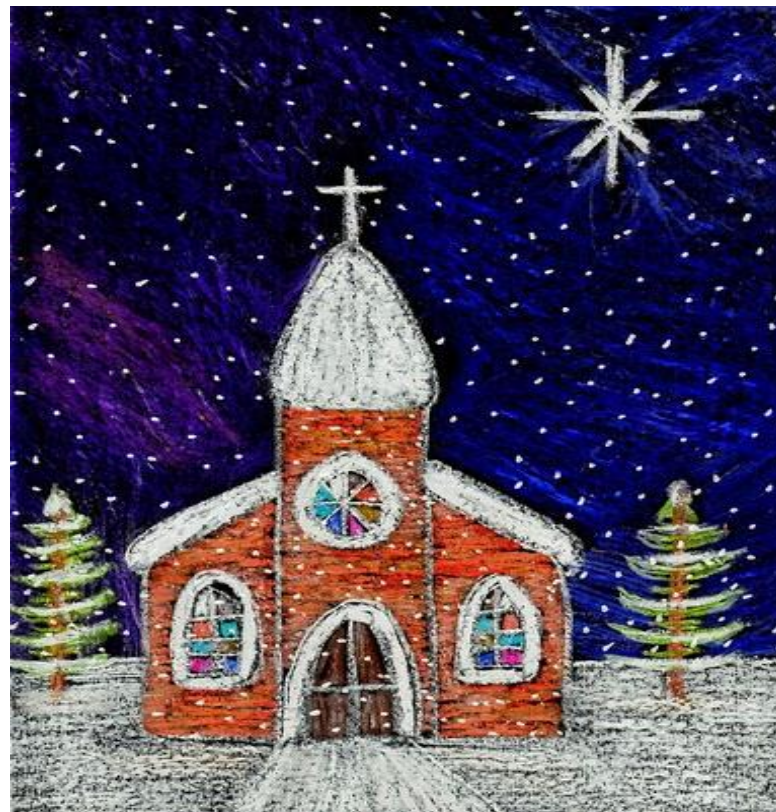
#### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

**Wishing each and everyone and your families a Very Happy  
and Peace filled Christmas.**



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## FAMILY SERVICE



**St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

#### WELCOME

*Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:*

***And also with you.***

The shepherds said to one another,  
'Let us go now to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us.' *Luke 2 v 15*

## OPENING PRAYER

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

**to live in his marvellous light.**

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine our lives and confess our sins, in penitence and faith.

### *Hymn 149 - Away in a Manger*

## CONFESSION

**Father God,**

**we are sorry**

**for the things we do and say and think**

**which make you sad,**

**and for not thinking of others**

**before ourselves.**

**Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people more and more. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw you to himself

you may behold the glory of his Son,

and cleanse you from all your sins,

that the Word made flesh,

and be cleansed from all your sins

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Word was the true light coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

Jesus, light of the world,

**we worship and adore you.**

He came to his own, and they did not accept him.

But to all who accept him

he gives power to become children of God.

Jesus, light of the world,

**we worship and adore you.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory,

as of the only Son of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

Jesus, light of the world,

**we worship and adore you.**

God's word is a lantern to our feet

**and a light to our path.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9 v 2-7 – *To us a Child is Born*

### *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,**

**you have come among us.**

**Help us who live by your light**

**to shine as lights in your world.**

**Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

God's word is a lantern to our feet

**and a light to our path.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2 v 1-20 – *Jesus is Born in Bethlehem*

## CHRISTMAS ADDRESS

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family**

**in heaven and on earth is named.**