

Going out as God's People

BLESSING

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds
the good news of Jesus' birth.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

You have heard his story,
the story of God's own Son.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

May he fill you with joy
to bring this good news to others today.

Amen. We thank you, Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

**We go into the world
to walk in God's light,**

**to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.**

In the name of Christ. Amen.



**St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown
2nd Sunday of Christmas – 2nd January 2022**

FAMILY WORSHIP

THE GREETING

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to the first Sunday of 2022 - the new year. As we greet each other - let us say to each other:- **'HAPPY NEW YEAR'**

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

to live in his marvellous light.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." – Luke 2:10

HYMN 151 - Child in the manger - infant of Mary

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 continue to hear and receive the 'Good News' of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.

PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**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 God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *us our sins*
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In preparation for Receiving the Word

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path. Psalm 119 v105

Let us then receive the word of the Lord:
so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 7–14

HYMN 202 - What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping

The Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-18

THE ADDRESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray not on our own, but in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Eternal God,
in whose sight a thousand years
are like a watch in the night:
guide us now and always,
as you have led us in times past,
that our hearts may learn to choose your will:
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

A THANK OFFERING TO GOD

O God, whose love we cannot measure,
or whose blessings we cannot number.
We bless and praise you for all your goodness,
who in our weakness are our strength,
in our darkness are our light,
in our sorrows are our comfort and peace,
and who from everlasting to everlasting are our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end.
We thank you. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**