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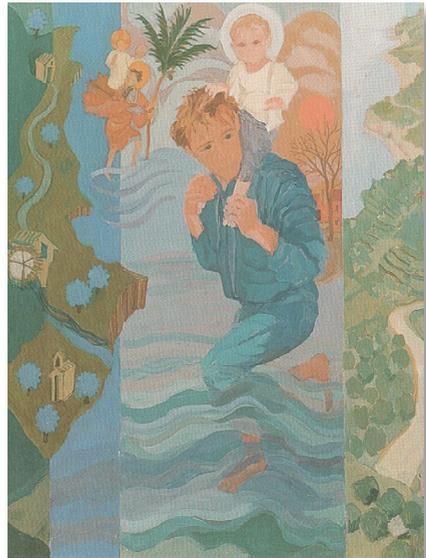
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
West Didsbury

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Saint  
Christopher  
withington

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MORNING PRAYER

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# The Gathering

## Processional Hymn

### Preparation

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

All

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

All

### Welcome and Introduction

*Then is said or sung*

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
**And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

All

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

All

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**

All

*(or)*

**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,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

All

*Please sit.*

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## **Prayers of Penitence**

Jesus says, *'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'*  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*All*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

# Benedictus

Luke 1.68-79

*When sung:*

**Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power;  
Who raises from the royal  
house  
Deliv'rance in his hour.  
Through holy prophets  
God has sworn  
To free us from alarm,  
To save us from the heavy  
hand  
Of all who wish us harm.**

**Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear  
That we might serve in  
holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child shall go  
before,  
to preach, to prophesy.  
That all may know the tender  
love  
the grace of God most high**

**In tender mercy, God will send,  
The dayspring from on high.  
Our rising sun, the light of life  
For those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide  
our way to peace  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One,  
O worship and adore**

*When said:*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set  
them free.

**He has raised up for us a  
mighty Saviour, born of the  
house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God  
promised of old to save us from our  
enemies, from the hands of all that  
hate us,

**To show mercy to our  
ancestors, and to remember  
his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our  
father Abraham: to set us free from  
the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without  
fear, holy and righteous in his  
sight all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the  
prophet of the Most High, for you will  
go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge  
of salvation by the forgiveness  
of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break  
upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell  
in darkness and the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet  
into the way of peace.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, creator of all,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light  
and life to all creation,  
may we rejoice in this day you have made;  
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep open our eyes to  
behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will,  
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*All* **Blessed be God forever**

## Canticle of Praise

*See this week's bulletin for the page number*

## *The Word of God*

### First Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## Psalm

*See this week's bulletin for Psalm*

## Hymn

## Second Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## Sermon

*A time of reflection may follow*

## Hymn or Chant

# The Apostles' Creed

*When sung:*

**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.**

*When said:*

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died,  
and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## The Peace

O God from whom all holy desires,  
all good judgments, and all just works proceed:  
Give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give,  
that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments,  
and that we, being defended from fear of our enemies,

may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

Give peace in our time, O Lord  
**for only you, O Lord, can support and protect us**

*All*

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus

*All* **Amen**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

*All*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace,

*We exchange a sign of peace*

## Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn, the collection will be taken*

*A prayer of thanksgiving may be said on presentation of the gifts*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following responses may be used*

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

| *All*

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord graciously hear us**

## The Collect for the day

*Other collects and prayer may be used here*

## The Lord's prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us;

*All*

**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.**

## The Blessing

*These or other suitable words may be used*

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

*All*

**Amen.**

*All*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore.  
Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

*All*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary



# Canticles

## **Benedicite:** A Song of Creation

- 1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 2 **Bless the Lord you heavens:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**
- 3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 4 **Bless the Lord all people on earth:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**
- 5 O people of God bless the Lord:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 6 **Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**
- 7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:  
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 8 **Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:  
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart:**
- 9 Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
**sing his praise and exalt him for ever.**

## A Song of Ezekiel: Pentecost

*Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b*

- 1 I will take you from the nations,  
and gather you from all the countries.
- 2 **I will sprinkle clean water upon you,  
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.**
- 3 A new heart I will give you,  
and put a new spirit within you,
- 4 **And I will remove from your body the heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.**
- 5 You shall be my people,  
**and I will be your God.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Jubilate Psalm 100: A Song of Joy

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 **Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 **For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting  
and his faithfulness endures from generation to  
generation.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
 and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
 and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Jubilate sung version



1. O be joyful in the Lord / all ye / lands :  
 serve the Lord with gladness,  
 and come before his / presence / with a / song.
2. Be ye sure that the Lord / he is / God :  
 it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves,  
 we are his / people and the / sheep of his / pasture.
3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,  
 and into his / courts with / praise :  
 be thankful unto him and / speak good / of his / Name.
4. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is / ever/lasting :  
 and his truth endureth from gene/ration to / gene/ration.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son :  
 and / to the / Holy / Ghost;  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be :  
 world without / end. / A/men

## A Song of the Wilderness: Advent

*Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10*

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.
- 2 **They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.**
- 3 Strengthen the weary hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4 **Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,  
your God is coming with judgement,  
coming with judgement to save you.'**
- 5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- 6 **Then shall the lame leap like a hart,  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.**
- 7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;
- 8 **The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing,  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**
- 9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs,  
**and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Venite Psalm 95 chant version



1. O come let us / sing unto the / Lord :  
let us heartily rejoice in the / strength of our sal / vation.
2. Let us come before his / presence with / thanksgiving :  
and shew ourselves / glad · in / him · with / psalms.
3. For the Lord is a / great / God :  
and a great / King above / all / gods.
4. In his hand are all the / corners of the / earth :  
and the strength of the / hills is / his / also.
5. The sea is his and / he / made it :  
and his hands pre/pared the / dry / land.
6. O come let us worship and / fall / down :  
and kneel be/fore the / Lord our / Maker.
7. For he is the / Lord our / God :  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the / sheep of / his / hand.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son :  
and / to the / Holy / Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be :  
world without / end. / A/men

## Venite Psalm 95 metrical sung version

*Tune: Epiphany*

- 1        Come, worship God who is worthy of honour,  
          Enter his presence with thanks and a song!  
          He is the rock of his people's salvation,  
          To whom our jubilant praises belong.
  
- 2        Ruled by his might are the heights of the mountains,  
          Held in his hands are the depths of the earth;  
          His is the sea, his the land for he made them,  
          King above all gods, who gave us our birth.
  
- 3        We are his people, the sheep of his pasture,  
          He is our maker and to him we pray;  
          Gladly we kneel in obedience before him -  
          Great is the God whom we worship this day!
  
- 4        Now let us listen, for God speaks among us,  
          Open our hearts and receive what he says:  
          Peace be to all who remember his goodness,  
          Trust in his word and rejoice in his ways!

## A Song of the Messiah: Christmas

*Isaiah 9.2-3b,4a,6,7*

1 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
upon them the light has dawned.

2 **You have increased their joy and given them great  
gladness;  
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.**

3 For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them;  
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders

4 **For to us a child is born and to us a son is given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.**

5 And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;  
the Mighty God;  
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

6 **Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,**

7 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

8 **From this time forth and for evermore;  
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## A Song of the New Jerusalem: Epiphany

*Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18-19, 14b*

- 1 Arise, shine out, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
- 2 **Though night still covers the earth,  
and darkness the peoples;**
- 3 Above you the Holy One arises,  
and above you God's glory appears.
- 4 **The nations will come to your light,  
and kings to your dawning brightness.**
- 5 Your gates will lie open continually,  
shut neither by day nor by night.
- 6 **The sound of violence shall be heard no longer  
in your land,  
or ruin and devastation within your borders.**
- 7 You will call your walls, Salvation,  
and your gates, Praise.
- 8 **No more will the sun give you daylight,  
nor moonlight shine upon you;**
- 9 But the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
your God will be your splendour.
- 10 **For you shall be called the city of God,  
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**As it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## A Song of David: Ordinary Time

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13,14b*

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 **Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.**
- 3 Riches and honour come from you  
and you rule over all.
- 4 **In your hand are power and might;  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.**
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 **For all things come from you,  
and of your own have we given you.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

