

Birthing of Life



Prelude

GATHERING

We stand as able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.
The advent of Christ, our Light and our Life.

Assembly: **Glory to the Beloved for ever and ever.**

Hymn

We sit.

TEACHING

We stand as able.

HEART OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Open our hearts to receive the Christ Light, who
guides us in the ways of laying our lives gratefully before You.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: Teach us to serve as Christ all creatures of your sacred creation.
May we become a community justice,
removing walls of prejudice and healing division.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: Instill in the souls of our leaders genuine care for the cries of all in distress.
May our laws and policies help free the oppressed, so peace may reign.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: Quicken your mercy within us, O Beloved,
Softening our souls to receive the pleas of friends
who hunger, thirst, and face cold nights (especially *N*).
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: Bless all in pain, and those who care for them, with your healing gifts (especially *N*).
Open our hearts to see your tender Presence already within us.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: You welcome all who have completed their earthly journey (especially *N*).
Your peace is now their peace.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

Leader: In gratitude and praise, we invite your Presence into our lives.
Let us pray.
Blessed is the Day Star dawning in the dark.

THE PEACE

Presider: Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of the Jesus Christ
is with you now.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

HOSPITALITY

Welcoming of Visitors and Guests
Announcements
Recognition of Birthdays & Anniversaries

THE TABLE OF GOD

Hymn

We stand as able.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Presider: The Day Star is with you

Assembly: **And also with you**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

Assembly: **We lift them to the heavens.**

Presider: Let us give thanks.

Assembly: **We lay open our hearts and minds and bodies in thanks and praise.**

Presider: Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful – these are yours. When we think ourselves worth nothing, in truth we are your beautiful body. When we become lost in the maze of our beliefs, in truth we are your heart. When we lose our way or turn away, in truth your presence is constant. And look, Christ, your Beloved, prepares a table for all, offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very being so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again. In truth, You are worth all our pain and all our praise.

So now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the saints on earth and in heaven:

SANCTUS

Presider: Beloved, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

Assembly: **Day Star dawning in the dark, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.**

Presider: We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty.
The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

Assembly: **Day Star dawning in the dark, put our fullness at the service of the empty.**

Presider: We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or,
if not at war, then preparing for it.

Assembly: **Day Star dawning in the dark, be our wisdom in the ways of justice and peace.**

Presider: We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions.
We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

Assembly: **Day Star dawning in the dark, be our health in the midst of brokenness.**

Presider: As Love you are born; as Love you heal, preach, teach and show the way of heaven; as Love you refuse to abandon us even in the face of death on a cross; and as Love, after death, you live!

Beloved Christ, present with us now, for all that you are and all that you share, what have we to offer?

Our hands and hearts are so often full of everything but your holy emptiness. But you are mercy and the power of transformation.

So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body –

healing, forgiving and making us whole; and that we may become, for God, your body – loving and caring in the world as God’s reign dawns.

Among friends, gathered round a table, you take bread, break it and say, this is my body, it is broken for all.

And later you take the cup of wine and say, this is the new relationship with God, made possible because I am love, even in death. Take this – all of you – to remember and live as me: Look, here is your Life-Giver coming to you in bread and wine.

Presider: In the Spirit of Christ, we now sing,

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider: We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.

Assembly: **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Presider: The gifts of God.
All are invited to God’s table.

THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

SENDING FORTH

We stand as able.

Presider: Let us pray

All: **Day Star dawning in the dark,
your life rests within our own;
may we abide now as You.**

**Living as your abiding presence,
may we arise each moment renewed and refreshed.**

**Now, we live as You.
Now, we love as You.
Now, we serve as You.
AMEN.**

Presider: May the blessing of God
Christ beside us
Christ before us
Christ beneath us
Christ above us
Christ surrounding us
Christ as us
Inspire us with purpose and
Confirm us in love.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

(The Eucharistic Prayer and closing blessing were originally inspired by A Wee Worship Book of Iona and rewritten by Kevin Thew Forrester.) © Kevin G. Thew Forrester, 2018.