*The Preparation*

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, Day in night,

Heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth

Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

*The Lighting of the Christmas Candle*

*The Dedication of the Crib*

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen**.

*Prayer After Communion*

Let us pray

God our Father,

tonight you have made know to us again

the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

may our Christmas celebration

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him

until the days dawn

and Christ the Morning Star

rises in our hearts.

**To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God,

**we thank you for feeding us**

**with the body and the blood of your Son**

**Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer ourselves to you**

**as a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out**

**in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work**

**to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the Father,

who has loved the eternal Son

from before the foundation of the world,

shed that love upon you his children.

May Christ,

who by his incarnation gathered into one

things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with joy and peace.

May the Holy Spirit,

by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer,

give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.