

GREENBELT

COMMUNION

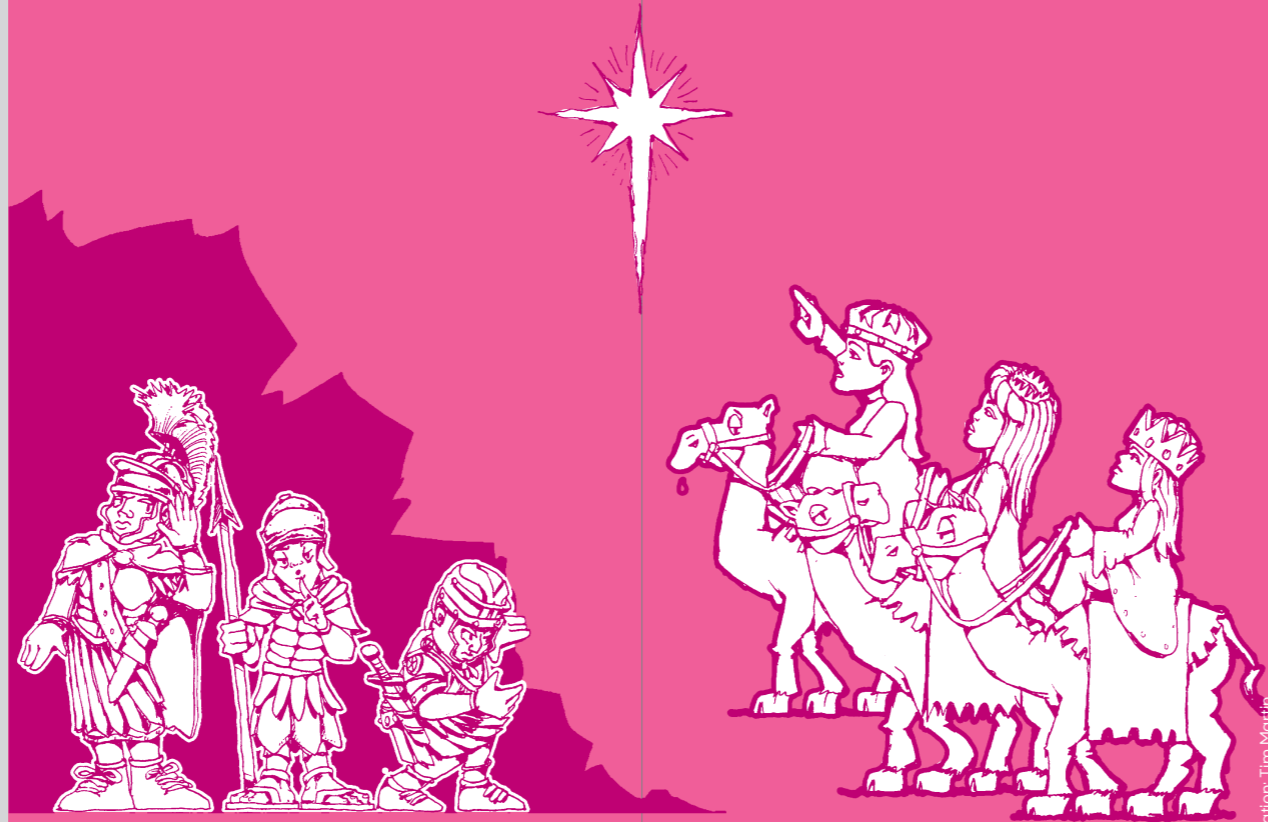


Illustration: Tim Martin

Better Way

original words by Ben Harper

We are living sunsets
lightning in our bones
push us to the edge
but our will is stone
We believe in a better way.

Fools will be fools
and wise will be wise
but we will look this world
straight in the eyes
Because we believe in a
better way;
We believe in a better way.

What good is a person
who won't take a stand
what good is a cynic
with no better plan

Let us be
a channel of
your peace,
O Lord

(REPEATED)

Reality is sharp
it cuts at us like a knife
everyone we know
is in the fight of their life
We believe in a better way.

Take your face out of your hands
and lift up your eyes
for this is the way,
and this is the time

We believe in a better way;
We believe in a better way;
We believe in a better way.



Prayers of Thankfulness & Hope

READER We delight today in the
power of gentleness;
The strength of weakness;
The wisdom of foolishness.
For the foolishness of God is wiser
than human wisdom.

ALL And I am a right idiot sometimes!

READER We pray today for the
patience to listen;
The genuine willingness to
understand;
The courage to recognise our
blindspots.
Lead us by the ways we have not
known, and guide us along the
unfamiliar paths.

**ALL Because most of the time I can't
see beyond the end of my nose.**

READER We celebrate today the
birth of a new hope;
A baby's cry in the night;
The precious pain of childbirth,
and the breath-taking joy of new
life.

For the light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it. And the
darkness never will, because
there's a crack in it.

**ALL And that's where the light
gets in.**

READER We pray today for the vision to see and
the faith to believe;
In a world free from violence;
Where all people can live together without fear,
hatred, or persecution.
Your commonwealth is not a matter of what we
eat or drink, but of living a life of justice, peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit.

ALL And we all need more of that.

READER We rejoice today in the hope embodied in
Jesus;
The glorious adventure of peace making;
And the revolution of the heart which leads us
onward.

You make me lie down in green pastures, you
lead me beside quiet waters, you refresh my
soul.

ALL Like a long cool drink on a hot dry day.

READER We pray today for the strength to devote
our minds, and our bodies, and our hearts;
to the task of making peace;
Between all the people of our shared planet.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be
called children of God.

**ALL Among a variety of other less complimentary
things.**

READERS Amen

ALL Amen.

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Go tell it on the mountain

African American Spiritual,
as written down by John Wesley Work II

CHORUS Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.



While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

CHORUS

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth.

CHORUS

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

CHORUS



COMMUNION



Communion quick-fire guide

You may never have shared communion before – it's fine to join in or not, as you prefer. You're welcome either way!

- Try passing the bread around first: break a piece off & pass the rest to the person next to you. You can say: "The body of Christ" as you do so.
- When the bread has been eaten, pour the wine/juice into a cup & share it too. You can say: "The blood of Christ" as you pass it round. Some prefer to share these things in silence.
- When you've drunk from the cup – wipe the place you've sipped from with the napkin before passing it on.
- Some people find it offensive to have bread & juice left over, please try to consume it all.
- Some parents/carers/guardians may want their young kids to take part, others may not – we respect the wishes of all these adults.

So that everyone can take part:

All the bread is gluten free, & if you prefer (non-alcoholic) juice to wine, it's available at the bag collection points, as are easy-read large print Orders of Service.

What did one snowman say to another snowman?

Can you smell carrots?

Why did Donald Trump give everyone kitchen utensils for Christmas?

He wanted to make America grate again.

What is Santa's favourite thrash metal band?

Sleigher

Why did the snowman get rushed to hospital?

He caught tinseltits.

Why do politicians envy the nativity set?

They long for a stable government.

This year we are giving 50% of our offering away to five amazing organisations. They reflect our four campaigning concerns – climate change, migration, UK poverty and Israel/Palestine – plus the theme of this year's service, Christmas charity. Full details are in the Festival Guide (p11). You can donate during the service by cash or cheque (to Trust Greenbelt). Please also complete a Gift Aid form (these are in your bags). Alternatively you can make your donation online by visiting the Angels Lounge any time over the weekend, or through our website. THANK YOU!

Thanks

musicians DJ Sekrit, Mishael Lazarus, Joelle Braithwaite (trumpet), Kettering Citadel Salvation Army Band

presenters & readers Liz Adekunle, Sami Awad, John Bell, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Kathryn Fleming & Gideon Rowcroft-James

production

props and costumery Lynsey Aldrick, SJ Meyers & Peridot Hill

writer/director Simon Cross
design Chantal Freeman

producer Nicola Hambridge

illustrators Tim Martin timarting.com
Ben Wildflower benwildflower.com

actors

romans Lynsey Aldrick, Ben Bigfoot Harrap, Alistair Jones, & Liz Powell

magi Burj Langdana, Rachel Mann & Martina Pereira

angel Caroline Beckett

joseph Ben Solanky

mary Sanya Strachan

baby jesus Noah Mountford, understudy Baby Doll

and representing the Union of Judean Shepherds Derek Tinkleberry

Dear Santa, for Christmas this year I want:

To be bolder, dance harder, think deeper, explore further, climb higher, sing louder, and care greater. And a train set please.

xoxo

GREENBELT



As part of our Christmas themed service, we're going to share a celebratory meal together too: an elemental communion meal of just two things. Bread and wine (or grape juice).

People have been making and sharing bread and wine for millennia, some say that the first urban settlements were founded in places where wheat could be grown and ground to make bread. (Bethlehem means 'house of bread'.)

Jesus and his followers shared bread and wine as part of an ordinary shared meal. They were companions: sharers of bread. We'd like you to form groups of about 15 – 20 companions to share your meal too. Please remember to welcome strangers.

Christmas dinners and communions are tricky things – everyone has their own tradition. Just like Christmas dinner, there's no single 'right' way, or perhaps it's better to say there are many 'right' ways: so please share this meal in the way that seems right to you.

If you're wondering where to start use the quick-fire guide on the reverse of this Order of Service.

