



**ST. JOHN'S**  
BLACKHEATH

Service of the Word

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## 1. Welcome

Opening sentence from Scripture

or

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

## 2. Prayers of repentance

**A. Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with  
our whole heart.  
We have not loved our  
neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you,  
our God. Amen.**

**B. 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 us to the joy of your  
salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**C. God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for  
our sins.  
For turning away from you,  
and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.****

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do,  
and think and say;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn  
away from you  
by temptations in the world  
about us;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed  
to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

## 3. Assurance of forgiveness

A suitable sentence from Scripture  
or

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.  
**Amen.**

## 4. Creeds

**A. The Apostle's Creed**

**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<sup>[1]</sup> Church,  
the communion<sup>[2]</sup> of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*[1] 'catholic' here means 'universal  
and world-wide'.*

*[2] 'communion' here refers to the  
Spirit-given unity of all Christians,  
regardless of denomination.*

**B. Let us affirm our faith in Jesus  
Christ the Son of God.  
Though he was divine, he did not  
cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God has raised him  
on high, and given him the  
name above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

**C. Do you believe and trust in  
God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?  
**We believe and trust in him.****

Do you believe and trust in  
God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in  
God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people  
of God and makes Christ known  
in the world?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## 5. The prayers

*(One of the responses may be used)*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

or

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

As our Saviour taught us, so 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.**

## 6. God's Word and our response

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## 7. Sermon

## 8. Closing

**A. Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lamp to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**B. 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.**

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

The peace of the Lord  
be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

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[The different elements of this service are taken from the Church of England's 'Common Worship 2000'. Other elements may be included such as songs of praise, testimony, offerings, notices and announcements.]