**Times and Seasons: Part One**

**THE PLYGAIN**

**INTRODUCTION**

The service known as Plygain is a unique part of the Welsh Christian tradition. The principal content of the service is the singing of traditional Welsh carols, unaccompanied. The name ‘plygain’ derives from the Latin *pulli canto*, meaning ‘at cock crow’. Originally it referred to an office at midnight which was part of the cycle of prayer of religious communities. Over time, folk carols began to be sung during the Mass of the Shepherds, that is, the Eucharist celebrated around three o’clock on Christmas morning. As time went on this service became known as ‘Plygain’ and its carols as ‘Plygain carols’. In some places this service still happens in the morning but for more than a century it has, in many places, taken place in the context of Evening Prayer. Today the name ‘Plygain’ refers to the nature of the service rather than its time.

The tradition we have nowadays has been nurtured and cherished in various communities. In other places it was lost, sometimes within living memory, sometimes long ago. Today there is a longing to re-establish the Plygain and across the country the old carols are being rediscovered. The tradition survived most strongly in the old Montgomeryshire and the surrounding areas, now known as northern Powys. This order of service for the Plygain is largely based upon the traditions and customs of that area.

The Plygain has its own character which is difficult to define or describe adequately. It does not derive solely from the singing of its traditional carols, but also from the context and atmosphere of that singing. The Plygain is an act of worship which happens within a framework loosely based upon Evening Prayer. Praise is sung to God for the entire work of salvation brought to us through Jesus Christ, and for the gift of the Spirit in renewing the whole of creation. This is celebrated in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, and the whole company of heaven. In worship with them the congregation testifies to the wonder of God’s grace and love.

It must be emphasised that the Plygain is an act of worship. Moreover, it is open to all. The congregation’s role is one of contemplation and praise rather than the admiration of talents, even though these provide cause for appreciation and thanks. Hence applause does not form part of the tradition. Rather, the gathering is characterised by an atmosphere of wonder before the Word made flesh. This may entail relearning the value of devotional silence, since that silence is indispensable to the Plygain. It was love and devotion to Christ which inspired the carols in the first place and so, in the expectant, prayerful silence between the carols, we are invited to deepen our own devotion and love.

This order of service should be read in conjunction with the Notes.

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR PLYGAIN**

*Following the pattern of Daily Prayer 2009)*

**1. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung**

**2. Introduction**

*The minister may speak these words of introduction or similar words.*

We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks for his love and grace, and once again to marvel with the shepherds, worship with the wise men and sing praises with the angels to the Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is the Christ, the Messiah who came to redeem our life, to pay our debt and make us children of God. In the company of Mary, Mother of our Lord, and the whole company of heaven, we raise our voices to magnify God and present our worship, praise and thanksgiving for all that he has done for us in Jesus, our Emmanuel.

**3. Versicles and responses**

O Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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**

Worship the Lord.

**All praise to his name.**

*An appropriate Psalm may be read or sung. See Appendix 1.*

**4. The Reading**

*Luke 2:8-20 is usually read. Luke 1:26-38 may be read during the season of Advent, Matthew 2:1-12 during Epiphany and on the Feast of the Presentation (2 February) Luke 2:22-40. See Appendix 1.*

**5. The Magnificat or the Nunc Dimittis***The Magnificat is normally included in the Plygain. However, if the service takes place during Epiphanytide or on the Feast of the Presentation, the Nunc Dimittis may be included instead.*

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:**

**my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;**

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:**

**from this day all generations will call me blessed;**

**The Almighty has done great things for me:**

**and holy is his name.**

**God has mercy on those who fear him:**

**from generation to generation.**

**The Lord has shown strength with his arm:**

**and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:**

**and lifting up the lowly.**

**God has filled the hungry with good things:**

**and has sent the rich away empty.**

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:**

**to remember his promise of mercy,**

**The promise made to our forebears:**

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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.**

*Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)*

**Lord, now you have set your servant free:**

**to go in peace as you have promised.**

**For these eyes of mine have seen your salvation:**

**which you have prepared for all the world to see;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations:**

**and to give glory to your people 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.**

**6. The Apostles’ Creed***The Apostles’ Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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,**

**and 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**

**7. The Prayers**

*The versicles and responses below may be included, or appropriate prayers of your choice, or the seasonal prayers given in Appendix 2. The Lord’s Prayer and the Collects are said in conclusion.*

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens:

**may your glory cover the earth.**

Renew your Church in holiness:

**and give your people the blessing of peace.**

Keep our nation under your care:

**and guide us in justice and truth.**

Let your way be known on earth:

**your saving power among all nations.**

Do not let the needy, O God, be forgotten:

**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Lord, hear our prayer:

**for we put our trust in you.**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Or*

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**Seasonal Collect**

*The Collect for Advent 1, Christmas Day, The Feast of the Epiphany or the Feast of the Presentation is used.*

*Advent 1*

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Christmas*

Almighty God,

you have given us your only-begotten Son

to take our nature upon him

and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

grant that we, who have been born again

and made your children by adoption and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit:

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Epiphany*

Gracious God,

who by the leading of a star

manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:

mercifully grant that we,

who know you now by faith,

may at last behold your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Presentation of the Lord*

Almighty and everliving God,

clothed in majesty,

whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,

in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you

with pure and clean hearts,

by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The second collect, for peace.**

Eternal God, source of all holy desires,

all good counsels and all just works:

give your servants that peace which the world cannot give,

that we may willingly obey your commandments,

and that, free from the fear of our enemies,

we may pass our time in rest and quietness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The third collect.**

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,

and by your great mercy

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;

for the love of your only Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**8. The Plygain carols: the first cycle**

*The minister says these words, or similar words.*

I declare that the Plygain is now open.

*The Plygain is now open for singers to come forward with their offering of praise to Jesus.*

**9. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung.**

**10. The Plygain carols: the second cycle**

*There is no announcement at the beginning of the second cycle. The singers come forward once again to sing praise.*

**11. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung.**

**12. Carol y Swper**

*All the soloists and groups who have contributed to the Plygain service come forward to sing together Carol y Swper. See Appendix 3.*

**13. The Conclusion**

*The minister says*

The Lord bless us and protect us from evil and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Or*

*Advent*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before you …

*Christmas*

Christ, who by taking our flesh,

gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with his joy and peace …

*Or*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace

to trust his promises and obey his will.

*The Epiphany*

Christ, the Son of God,

gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom …

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

**The order of service for plygain**

*(Following the pattern of the 1984 Book of Common Prayer)*

**1. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung**

**2. Introduction**

*The minister may speak these words of introduction or similar words.*

We have come together in the presence of God to give thanks for his love and grace, and once again to marvel with the shepherds, worship with the wise men and sing praises with the angels to the Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is the Christ, the Messiah who came to redeem our life, to pay our debt and make us children of God. In the company of Mary, Mother of our Lord, and the whole company of heaven, we raise our voices to magnify God and present our worship, praise and thanksgiving for all that he has done for us in Jesus, our Emmanuel.

**3. Versicles and responses**

O Lord, open thou our lips;

**And our mouth shall show forth thy Praise**.

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, am ever shall be:**

**world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord;

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

*An appropriate Psalm may be read or sung. See Appendix 1.*

**4. The Reading**

*Luke 2:8-20 is usually read. Luke 1:26-38 may be read during the season of Advent, Matthew 2:1-12 during Epiphany and on the Feast of the Presentation (2 February) Luke 2:22-40. See Appendix 1.*

**5. The Magnificat or the Nunc Dimittis***The Magnificat is normally included in the Plygain. However, if the service takes place during Epiphanytide or on the Feast of the Presentation, the Nunc Dimittis may be included instead.*

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)*

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:**

**and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**For he hath regarded:**

**the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

**For behold, from henceforth:**

**all generations shall call me blessed.**

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me:**

**and holy is his name.**

**And his mercy is on them that fear him:**

**throughout all generations,**

**He hath showed strength with his arm:**

**he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seat:**

**and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

**He hath filled the hungry with good things:**

**and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

**He remembering his mercy:**

**hath helped his servant Israel;**

**As he promised to our forefathers:**

**Abraham and his seed, for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:**

**world without end. Amen.**

*Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)*

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:**

**according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:**

**which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples.**

**To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:**

**and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:**

**world without end. Amen.**

**6. The Apostles’ Creed**

*The Apostles’ Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth:**

**And 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, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead,**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of God**

**the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come**

**to judge the quick 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.**

**7. The Prayers**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

**And grant us thy salvation.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people;

**And bless thine inheritance.**

O Lord, save the *Queen;*

**And give** *her***counsellors wisdom.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

**And evermore mightily defend us.**

Make clean our hearts, O God;

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

**Seasonal Collect**

*The collect for Advent 1, Christmas Day, The Feast of the Epiphany or the Feast of the Presentation is used.*

*Advent 1*

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

*Christmas*

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: grant that we, rejoicing in the coming of thy living and eternal Word, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*The Epiphany*

God, who didst give thy only-begotten Son to be a light to all nations: mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life enjoy the vision of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Presentation of the Lord*

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented to thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Second Collect,* for *Peace*

Almighty God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and that, being defended by thee from the fear of our enemies, we may pass our time in rest and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect, for aid against all perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**8. The Plygain Carols – the first cycle**

*The minister says these words, or similar words.*

I declare that the Plygain is now open.

*The Plygain is now open for singers to come forward with their offering of praise to Jesus.*

**9. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung.**

**10. The Plygain Carols – the second cycle**

*There is no announcement at the beginning of the second cycle. The singers come forward once again to sing praise.*

**11. A carol or congregational hymn may be sung.**

**12. Carol y Swper**

*All the soloists and parties who have contributed to the Plygain service come forward to sing together Carol y Swper. See Appendix 3.*

**13. The Conclusion**

*The minister says*

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

*Or*

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.**

*Or*

To God the Father, who first loved us,

and made us accepted in the Beloved;

To God the Son, who loved us,

and washed us from our sins in his own Blood;

To God the Holy Spirit,

who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts,

be all love and all glory, for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

*Or*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**NOTES**

1. *This order of service*

This order is intended primarily to provide guidelines and assistance for those churches and congregations who are re-establishing the Plygain or beginning to hold the service for the first time. In those churches where the Plygain is established it is anticipated that the order and local customs which already exist will be followed.

1. *The season of Plygain services*

Traditionally Plygain services were held during Christmastide. The season continues through Epiphany (6 January) until the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (2 February) (Candlemas). Even though in Montgomeryshire it is reckoned that no Plygain service should be held before the old Feast of St. Thomas (21 December), nowadays it is also considered appropriate for Advent.

1. *The order of service for Plygain*

Elements of Evening Prayer may be varied from those provided in this order. Nevertheless, as a minimum it should include the versicles, an appropriate reading from Scripture, the Magnificat (Song of Mary), the Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), a collect or short prayer, the Lord’s Prayer and a carol or congregational hymn.

1. *The singing and the carols*

The Plygain service is a vocal tradition and playing musical instruments is not part of it. Preserving this tradition of singing unaccompanied is a way of defining that which is characteristic of the Plygain. Congregational hymns may be accompanied as well as contributions from children of local schools.

Traditional Plygain carols are the most appropriate for the service (see Appendix 4). This tradition may be expanded slightly by including a song or new carol which is in keeping with this tradition.

The use of musical scores by the singers is entirely consistent with the tradition.

It is not customary for groups to have a conductor.

From time to time, words or phrases may occasionally occur in carols which are not in keeping with the conventions and standards of our age. Hence every care should be taken to revise examples of this kind or refrain from using them altogether, in order to avoid offence. With this in mind, a revised version of Carol y Swper is included in Appendix 3.

1. *The order of the sung contributions*

Following the opening section the minister will declare that the Plygain is ‘open’. This is the time for contributions from the congregation, either groups or individuals. In those churches where the Plygain is an established tradition, local custom is followed. The individuals and groups respond to the invitation in turn, with no pre-determined order. Where the Plygain is being re-established or celebrated for the first time, it may be necessary to agree an order in advance.

1. *Silence*

If necessary, and in order to avoid any uncertainty, it should be explained that it is customary to receive the various contributions in silence and that applause is inappropriate. Neither is it appropriate for the minister to direct or lead the contributions or speak in between the carols. These pauses are filled with prayerful anticipation. It is important not to rush from one contribution to the next.

1. *The first and second cycles*

The first cycle of carols is followed by the second. Each contributor sings one carol in each cycle. It is customary to avoid repetition of any carol – whether words or melody – within the service. Individuals and parties come to the Plygain service having prepared three or four carols, ready to dispense with one or two of them. The minister decides when to close the first cycle, once no more singers rise to sing. This is done by announcing a congregational hymn or carol. As far as possible, the contributors should sing in the same order in the second cycle as in the first.

If children are taking part, either as individuals or as groups it is usual for them to come forward first. If contributing a carol, it is usual for the minister to sing first, but after the children’s contribution.

1. *The Plygain as an ecumenical and missional opportunity*

The Plygain can provide an opportunity to bring the whole community together to celebrate Christmas through extending an invitation to contribute to churches, schools and other institutions in the community such as Merched y Wawr, the Women’s Institute, the Young Farmers, local choirs, sports clubs etc. When considering the ecumenical and missional opportunities that arise from doing this, the service should be as welcoming and inclusive as possible by amending this order as necessary, for example by reciting the canticles together or using a metrical version instead of Anglican chant.

1. *The Plygain in the context of the Eucharist*

If desired, the Plygain may be celebrated in the context of the Eucharist. This is in keeping with the old tradition of singing carols such as these during the Mass of the Shepherds.

**APPENDIX I – Psalms and Appropriate Readings**

**Proper Psalms**

**Advent:** 40**,** 80:1-7; 96

**Christmas:** 8**,** 97; 98, 110

**Epiphany:** 72; 100, 113, 132

**The Feast of the Presentation:** 24; 42; 48; 122; 132

**Readings from the Gospels**

**Advent:** Luke 1:26-38

**Christmas:** Matthew 1:18 – 25; Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:8-20 (or Luke 2:1-20), John 1:1-14

**Epiphany:** Matthew 2:1-12

**The Feast of the Presentation:** Luke 2:22-40

**Readings from the Old Testament**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Isaiah 30:15-21; Isaiah 42:1-7; Isaiah 60:1-6; Micah 5:2-4.

**Readings from the Epistles**

Galatians 4:1-7; Ephesians 3:1-12; Colossians 1:11-19; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Titus 2:11-14;

Hebrews 1:1-12; I Peter 2:4-10; I John 1:1-4; Revelation 1:1-8.

**APPENDIX 2 – Seasonal Prayers**

*(The prayers below come from Times and Seasons, Part One: Advent to the Presentation of Christ in the Temple)*

**1. Advent**

As we wait for the Lord's coming

let us pray for the church and the whole world

that justice will flourish and peace until the moon fails.

May the church be filled with a spirit of wisdom and insight,

and live with true integrity and deep love.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May the nations of the world and all leaders seek justice and peace

and have compassion for the weak and the poor.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May our parish community, living as people of the Light

prepare a way for the Lord's coming.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May those who dwell in the darkness of war and violence

see the dawning brightness of the Lord,

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May those who are sick know the presence of the Lord,

who raises up all who are bowed down.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May the poor and oppressed see faithfulness spring up from the earth

and justice look down from heaven.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May those who are sent out to proclaim the Lord is near

know his saving help and speak words of peace and joy.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

May we and all Christians dare to hear the voice of the prophets

and seek out and listen to the prophets among us.

Let your justice flourish, Lord.

**And peace till the moon fails.**

**2. Christmastide**

As we treasure all that has happened and ponder on the Mystery of Christ's birth, we call on the compassion of God who has revealed his love for the whole of humanity through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We rejoice in the angels' message and praise you with heavenly song:

may the lives of all people be filled with faith in Christ.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

The shepherds made haste to see all that had happened:

may your promises be fulfilled in the lives of the lowly.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

We have seen your Son, a sign of peace for all:

give us a longing for your peace and a love of your kingdom.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

We glorify and praise you for all we have heard and seen:

make us eager to share the good news of Christ's birth.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

We treasure the mystery of our Saviour's birth:

may our prayer and worship raise our hearts and lives to heaven.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

We praise you for all that is revealed in the city of David:

may our homes and families be filled with the light of Christ.

God of compassion and love:

**raise our hopes to heaven.**

**3. Epiphanytide**

Dear brothers and sisters, the light of Christ's glory has risen upon the world. Let us pray together for the world he has come to redeem, praying that the church will be a light to the nations.

Let us pray for all the nations and leaders of the world: may the Lord scatter the darkness that covers the earth and divides the people, and gather us all into his fold.

Lord of glory:

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who do not know Christ: that, at his appearing, their hearts will overflow with joy.

Lord of glory:

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church throughout the world: that we may be a radiant light, leading others to the Lord.

Lord of glory:

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own parish community: that the promises of God may be fulfilled in us that we may bring the peace and light of Jesus to all who live in this place.

Lord of glory:

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all whose journey through life is difficult or burdened by suffering or illness: illumined by the light of faith, may they may rise as children of the day and walk in Christ's radiant glory.

Lord of glory:

**Hear our prayer.**

**APPENDIX 3**

**Carol y Swper**

Cydganed dynoliaeth am ddydd gwaredigaeth,

daeth trefn y Rhagluniaeth i’r goleuni,

a chân ‘Haleliwia’ o fawl i’r Gorucha,

Meseia Jwdea, heb dewi;

moliannwn o lawenydd! Gwir ydyw fod Gwaredydd!

Fe anwyd Ceidwad inni, sef Crist, y Brenin Iesu,

cyn dydd, cyn dydd ym Methlem yn ddi-gudd

y caed Gwaredydd ar foreuddydd! O wele ddedwydd ddydd!

Ein Meichiau a’n Meddyg dan fflangell wenwynig

ar agwedd un diddig yn dioddef,

a’i farnu gan Peilat, a’i wisgo mewn sgarlad

gan ddynion dideimlad, rhaid addef;

a phlethu draenen bigog yn goron anhrugarog

a’i gosod mewn modd creulon ar ben Iachawdwr dynion:

fel hyn, fel hyn y gwisgwyd Iesu gwyn,

o dan arteithiau ein mawrion feiau, i boenau pen y bryn.

Defnyddiwn ein breintiau, mae perygl o’n holau,

cyn delo dydd angau, dihangwn;

mae heddiw’n ddydd cymod a’r swper yn barod

a’r bwrdd wedi’i osod, O brysiwn!

Mae’r dwylo fu dan hoelion yn derbyn plant afradlon

i wlad y Ganaan nefol i wledda yn dragwyddol.

Amen. Amen. Boed moliant byth! Amen.

Haleliwa i’r Meseia sy’n maddau byth! Amen.

Anhysbys (tua 1850) (*Newidiwyd)*

Tune: Carol y Swper.

The music and words of the entire carol may be found in Rhiannon Ifans, *Yn dyrfa weddus.* pp.118-122

**APPENDIX 4**

**Some collections of traditional Plygain carols**

Arfon Gwilym a Sioned Webb (eds.), *Hen garolau Cymru.* (Caernarfon: Cwmni Cyhoeddi Gwynn, 2006)

*Cyff Mawddwy: detholiad o garolau Plygain Eglwysi Tydecho Sant.* (Bangor: Diocese of Bangor Education Council, 1982)

Rhiannon Ifans (ed.), *Yn dyrfa weddus: carolau ar gyfer y Plygain.* (Aberystwyth: Cymdeithas Lyfrau Ceredigon, 2003)

Enid Morgan (gol.), *Cadw gŵyl: Plygain.* (Penarth: Mission Board of the Church in Wales, 2000). [Compact disc containing 18 carols and 2 Christmas hymns as well as a booklet *Cadw gŵyl: llawlyfr i’r traddodiad Plygain.*]

Geraint Vaughan-Jones (ed.), *Hen garolau Plygain*. (Talybont: Y Lolfa, 1988; reprinted 2009).

Geraint Vaughan-Jones (ed.), *Mwy o garolau Plygain.* (Talybont: Y Lolfa, 1990)