



Christmas Carol Service - Sunday 17 December 2023

## Welcome

### Call to Worship - Numbers 24:17

'I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near.  
A star will come out of Jacob;  
a sceptre will rise out of Israel.  
He will crush the foreheads of Moab,  
the skulls of all the people of Sheth.

### Carol - Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed  
Mary was that mother mild  
Jesus Christ her little child  
  
He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all  
And His shelter was a stable  
And His cradle was a stall  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above  
And He leads his children on  
To the place where He is gone  
  
Not in that poor lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
We shall see Him but in heaven  
Set at God's right hand on high  
There His children gather round  
Bright like stars with glory crowned

## Prayer

### Carol - What Child Is This

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe, the Son of Mary  
  
Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe, the Son of Mary  
  
So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant, king, to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise, raise the song on high  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born  
The Babe, the Son of Mary

### Reading - Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-7

**7** <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**9** Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

**2** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**3** You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

**4** For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

**5** Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning,

will be fuel for the fire.

**6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

### Carol - In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone:  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter,  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air –  
But His mother only  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him?  
Give my heart.

## Reading - Luke 1:46-56

**1** <sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

‘My soul glorifies the Lord  
**47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
**48** for he has been mindful  
    of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
**49** for the Mighty One has done great things for me –  
    holy is his name.  
**50** His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
    from generation to generation.  
**51** He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
    he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
**52** He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
    but has lifted up the humble.  
**53** He has filled the hungry with good things  
    but has sent the rich away empty.  
**54** He has helped his servant Israel,  
    remembering to be merciful  
**55** to Abraham and his descendants for ever,  
    just as he promised our ancestors.’

**56** Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

## Carol - Joy To The World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!  
  
Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns  
Let men their songs employ!  
While fields and floods and hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love!  
And wonders of His love!  
And wonders, wonders, of His love!  
  
Joy to the world! the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!

### Reading - Luke 2:1-21

<sup>2</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

### Song - O Come, O Come Immanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell, Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

## Reading - Matthew 1:18-25

**1** <sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**20** But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

**22** All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

**24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## Talk - The Birth Of Jesus

### Carol - O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Come and behold Him

Glory to God

Born the King of Angels

Glory in the highest

*O come, let us adore Him*

*Christ the Lord!*

*Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,

Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb

born that happy morning

Very God

Jesus, to Thee be glory given

Begotten, not created

Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing

*O come, let us adore Him*

*Christ the Lord!*

*Christ the Lord!*

## Close