

20th December 2020 6pm Parish Carol Service

Introduction by Revd. Andrew Attwood, Readings by Val Whiteman, Geoff Whiteman, Ann Gibbons, Jessica Harris, Lynda Howells, Julie & Phil Swards, Gill & Charlie Palmer, Graham & Ingrid Hyde.

Includes a poem by Margaret Bowdler and the Christmas Creed by Walter Russell Bowie.

Greetings.....	1
1 st reading: Psalm 103.....	1
1 st Carol: Once in Royal David's City.....	2
2 nd reading: Isaiah 9:2-7.....	3
2 nd Carol: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.....	3
3 rd Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9 [NLT].....	4
3 rd Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.....	4
4 th Reading: Micah 5:2-5a.....	4
4 th Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter.....	5
5 th Reading: Luke 1:26-38 [NIVUK 1984].....	5
5 th Carol: Longing for Light.....	6
6 th Reading: Luke 2:1-7 [ESV].....	6
6 th Carol: Silent Night.....	6
7 th Reading: Luke 2:8-20 [ESV].....	7
No Room – by Margaret Bowdler.....	7
7 th Carol: Joy Has Dawned.....	8
Christmas Creed – by Walter Russell Bowie.....	9
Time of Prayer.....	9
Advent Video.....	11
8 th Reading: John 1:1-14 [NIV 1984].....	12
9 th Carol: Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing.....	12
Blessing.....	13

Greetings

[Andrew Attwood:]

Good evening, and welcome to this year's Carol Service at St John's Church. It is unusual circumstances, but as we meet together for this service, we will again hear the story of the first Christmas, remembering the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The service will be a mixture of readings and carols, including a time of prayer. So as we begin, let me pray now.

I pray that wherever you are watching this, you will be filled with peace, hope and joy, remembering the truth that, though the world has been gripped by a pandemic affecting all our lives in so many different ways, I pray that we will be reminded that God is still good and still in control. I ask, Lord, that even in these unusual circumstances, we can have complete trust in the One that You sent to us at Christmastime. Amen.

So sit back, relax, and let the story of that first Christmas be a blessing to you, and a reminder of why we celebrate Christmas.

1st reading: Psalm 103

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; ♦ all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the LORD, my soul, ♦ and forget not all his benefits –

³ who forgives all your sins ♦ and heals all your diseases,

- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit ♦ and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things ♦ so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD works righteousness ♦ and justice for all the oppressed.
⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, ♦ his deeds to the people of Israel:
⁸ the LORD is compassionate and gracious, ♦ slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹ He will not always accuse, ♦ nor will he harbour his anger for ever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve ♦ or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, ♦ so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west, ♦ so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, ♦ so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, ♦ he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, ♦ they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, ♦ and its place remembers it no more.
¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, ♦
and his righteousness with their children's children –
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant ♦ and remember to obey his precepts.
¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, ♦ and his kingdom rules over all.
²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, ♦ you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.
²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, ♦ you his servants who do his will.
²² Praise the LORD, all his works ♦ everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

1st Carol: Once in Royal David's City

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. 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 mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.</p> <p>3. And, through all His wondrous childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.</p> | <p>4. For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.</p> <p>5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.</p> <p>6. 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;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.</p> |
|---|--|

2nd reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

To us a Child is born

- 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.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

2nd Carol: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> <p>2. 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!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>3. 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!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> <p>4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> <p>5. 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!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|---|---|

3rd Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9 [NLT]

A Branch from David's Line – the promise of hope

- ¹ Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.
- ² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance
nor make a decision based on hearsay.
- ⁴ He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited.
The earth will shake at the force of his word,
and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.
- ⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.
- ⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.
The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.
- ⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together.
The lion will eat hay like a cow.
- ⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra.
Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.
- ⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,
for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

3rd Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!4. For lo!, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing. |
|---|--|

4th Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Promise of Peace

- ² ‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.’

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

4th Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter

1. 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 midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
For the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Chorus:
Gloria, Gloria
Now my eyes have seen
Soli Deo Gloria
He salvation brings

Bridge:
As the Lord has promised
I may go in peace

3. 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 I can I give Him: give my heart.

Chorus x 2

4. In the bleak midwinter, I may go in peace
As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.

5th Reading: Luke 1:26-38 [NIVUK 1984]

The angel visits Mary and the birth of Jesus foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you said." Then the angel left her.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

5th Carol: Longing for Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

6th Reading: Luke 2:1-7 [ESV]

The birth of Jesus

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

6th Carol: Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

7th Reading: Luke 2:8-20 [ESV]

The Shepherds Hear the Good News

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace, goodwill among people¹!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

7th Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels:

Chorus:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:

Chorus

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Chorus

No Room – by Margaret Bowdler

“No room in the Inn” the landlord said,
“I’ll have to turn you away.
Nothing personal you must understand.
Just so many folk here to-day.
But wait a moment, I have some space,
Better than nothing, the help I can give.
I can just squeeze you in,
In the place where the animals live”.

1 Alternative text in ESV

No room in my life for Jesus Christ,
I'll have to turn Him away.
Nothing personal you must understand,
Just so many other things fill my day.
But wait a moment, I could just spare,
An hour on Sunday, now and again.
I could just squeeze Him in,
As long as it causes no pain.

If the landlord had known who his special guests were,
Would he have treated them in that way?
Two thousand years on Jesus still seeks His place,
Will we still turn Him away?

7th Carol: Joy Has Dawned

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for every nation
Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary</p> <p>2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place
Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast
Vulnerable and helpless</p> | <p>3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb
Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophesy the story
Gold – a King is born today
Incense – God is with us
Myrrh – His death will make a way
And by His blood He'll win us</p> <p>4. Son of Adam Son of heaven
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ our mighty Champion
What a Saviour what a Friend
What a glorious mystery
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of history</p> |
|---|--|

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
He whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Christmas Creed – by Walter Russell Bowie

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world,
in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my
life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand;
whose life was among common people,
whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms,
whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,
who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them,
who by love brought sinners back to purity,
and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God:

The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,
the need of new life for empty souls,
the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus,
the Son of the living God,
born in Bethlehem this night,
for me and for the world.

Time of Prayer

[Graham Hyde:] This time of prayer is based on Matthew chapter 2, verse 11

And they fell down and worshipped Him.

[Ingrid Hyde:] We will use the word WORSHIP as an acrostic to guide our time and thoughts.

[Graham:] **W. Wait.**

[Ingrid:] But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.²

[Graham:] Breathe in.

2 Isaiah 40:31 [ESV]

[Ingrid:] Breathe out.

[Graham:] Breathe in.

[Ingrid:] Breathe out.

[Graham:] Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

[Ingrid:] have mercy on me, a sinner.

[Graham:] Lord Jesus Christ. Son of God,

[Ingrid:] have mercy on me, a sinner.³

[Graham:] **O. Offer.**

[Ingrid:] 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 him my heart.⁴

[Graham:] **R. Relax.** Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened. And I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.⁵

[Ingrid:] Who do you know who is particularly weary, particularly burdened in this time? Perhaps you might like to pray for them now.

[Graham:] **S. Stay.**

[Ingrid:] By your side I would stay. In your arms I would lay.

[Graham:] Jesus lover of my soul, nothing from you I withhold.⁶

[Ingrid:] To rest in your presence,

[Graham:] Not rushing away.

[Ingrid:] To cherish each moment,

[Graham:] here I will stay.⁷

[Graham:] **H. Honour.**

[Ingrid:] I gave you all the honour

[Graham:] and praise that's due your name.

[Ingrid:] For You are the King of glory, the Creator of all things.⁸

[Graham:] **I. Imagine.**

[Ingrid:] Imagine yourself found in the presence of Jesus. You may be visiting him at his birth, with him as he journeyed around the Holy Land, kneeling at the Cross. He may be in the room with you, now. We'll take a few minutes now to enjoy being in the presence of Jesus.

Is there something that Jesus is saying to you. Is there something that you would like to say to Jesus? Or do you just want to sit, and enjoy each other's company?

3 The Jesus Prayer

4 In the Bleak Midwinter, sung this evening

5 Matthew 11:29 [NIVUK]

6 Song, *By Your Side*, by Noel Richards Copyright © 1990 Thankyou Music

7 Song, *To Be In Your Presence*, by Noel Richards Copyright © 1991 Thankyou Music

8 Song, *I Worship You (I Give You All the Honour)*, by Carl Tuttle, Copyright © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

[Graham:] **P. Praise.** This is from Luke chapter 1⁹, Mary's response of praise to the news that God was fulfilling his promise through her in her obedience.

[Ingrid:] 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.

[Graham:] ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation.

[Ingrid:] ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm.

[Graham:] He has scattered those who are proud in their innermost thoughts.

[Ingrid:] ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their throne.

[Graham:] But has lifted up the humble.

[Ingrid:] ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things,

[Graham:] but has sent the rich away empty.

[Ingrid:] 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.

[Graham:] And they fell down and worshipped Him.¹⁰ Amen .

Advent Video

30 The angel said to her,
“Don’t be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his
grace. **31** Listen! You will become pregnant and
give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.
32 He will be great and will be called the Son of
the Most High.

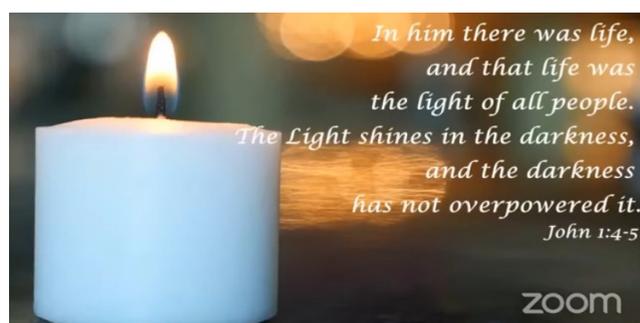
[Luke1:30-32a, NCV]

4 In him there was life, and that life was the light
of all people. **5** The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overpowered it.

[John 1:4-5]

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.

[Isaiah 9:6, NIVUK]



9 Luke 1:46-55 [NIVUK]

10 Matthew 2:11 [ESV]

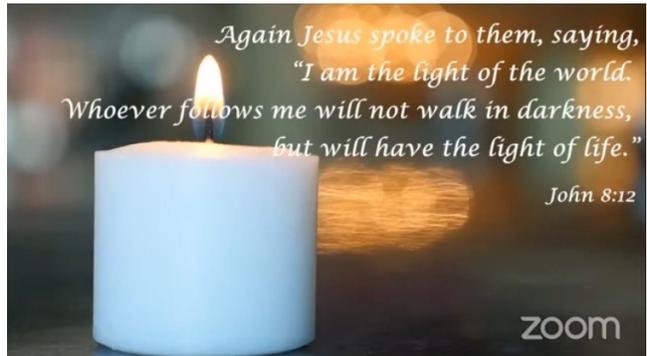
‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel’

[Matthew 1:23, NIVUK]



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light
of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk
in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

[John 8:12, ESV]



8th Reading: John 1:1-14 [NIV 1984]

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

9th Carol: Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Chorus:
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Chorus

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Chorus

Blessing

[Andrew:] So we conclude our evening service with the words of the blessing.

Before the words of a blessing, a quick thank-you to all those who contributed. And I do encourage you to enter in, as best as you can, all those who are watching, with Christmas in the spirit of Christmas, as best as we can, in these unusual times. So a blessing:

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever.
Amen.

So God bless you all.

[Transcribed by Hamish Blair with help from <https://otter.ai>]

[NIVUK unless otherwise stated] Extracts from the Holy Bible, New International Version Anglicised, copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica, formerly International Bible Society. [Used by permission](#). All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica. UK trademark number 144879

[NIVUK 1984] Extracts from the Holy Bible, New International Version Anglicised, copyright © 1979, 1984 Biblica, formerly International Bible Society. [Used by permission](#). All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica. UK trademark number 1448790
Please note: inclusive language was not introduced into the NIV until the 2011 edition.

[NLT] Extract from Holy Bible, New Living Translation copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. [Used by permission](#) of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 60188. All rights reserved.

[ESV] The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2016. [Used by permission](#).
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV) is adapted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. All rights reserved.

[NCV] Scripture taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. [Used by permission](#). All rights reserved.

Once in Royal David's City – by Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895 (published 1848) – Public domain

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel) – original 8th or 9th century Latin words translated by John Mason Neal 1818-1866 (published 1861) – Public domain

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear – by Edmund Sears 1810-1876 (written 1849) – Public domain

In the Bleak Midwinter – original words by Christina Rossetti 1830-1894 (published 1872) . Verse 4, chorus and bridge, music and arrangement by Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty Copyright © 2016 Getty Music Publishing (admin by MusicServices.org) © 2017 GettyMusic Label, LLC

Longing for Light, We Wait In Darkness – by Bernadette Farrell, born 1957. Copyright © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.

Silent Night - composed by Franz Xaver Gruber 1787-1863 to lyrics by Joseph Mohr 1792-1848 (performed 1818, published 1833) – Public domain

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles) - attributed to various authors, including John Francis Wade (1711–1786), John Reading (1645–1692), King John IV of Portugal (1604–1656), and anonymous Cistercian monks (composed probably 1744, published 1751) – Public domain

No Room – by Margaret Bowdler of Kenilworth

Joy has dawned upon the World – by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. Copyright © 2004 Thankyou Music (Adm. by Capitol CMG Publishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)

Christmas Creed (a.k.a. Christmas Confession) – by Walter Russell Bowie 1882-1969, who was a priest, author, editor, educator, hymn writer, and lecturer in the Episcopal Church in the US state of Virginia and in New York City.

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing – by Charles Wesley 1707-1788, adapted by George Whitfield 1714-1770 (written 1739) – Public domain