

# **Christmas Eve Service**



**24 December 2021**

## Welcome

### Prayer

We count it in mere hours now.

Soon the first pains of labour will be felt.

**Soon the Light will shine in the darkness,  
soon the baby will be born.**

Soon God will once again break into our lives,  
**coming in a way that is expected yet unusual,  
challenging our expectations  
and calling us to see life differently.**

All that I am sings of the God  
who brings his life to birth in me.

**My spirit soars on the wings of my Lord.  
He has smiled on me and the blaze of his smile  
no one shall ever forget.**

My God is a gentle strength who has caught me up  
and made me his child.

**His love endures forever.**

### **Song: 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

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### **The Song of Mary (The Magnificat)**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
Who has looked with favor 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 the strength of 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 sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

**Praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Advent Candles: Christ Candle**

Tomorrow is the day for which we have all been waiting.  
Our Advent wreath will now be completed  
by the lighting of our Christ candle.

“For unto us a child is given,  
unto us a Saviour is born  
and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders.”  
With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed.  
We will be transformed by his model and message.  
We light this candle to represent  
that Christ is truly the centre of our lives.

**Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing their flight o’er all the earth  
Heralds of creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth

**Come and worship**

**Christ, the newborn king,**

**Come and worship,**

**Worship Christ, the newborn King**

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching over flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant Light

Wise men, leave your contemplations –  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great desire of nations –  
You have seen His natal star.

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## **An Unexpected Christmas**

### **Bible Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”  
<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then  
returned to her home.

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## **Message**

### **Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep  
The angels keep their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth

How silently how silently, the wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

## **Thanks for the Offering**

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.  
In the upside down world of the gospel,  
we measure our wealth not by what we have,  
but what we can give away.  
Let us give away generously, in this offering,  
To bless your church, your people, your creation.

## **Prayer of Confession**

In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to Almighty God  
**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,**  
**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed:**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart,**  
**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;**  
**We repent and are sorry for all our sins.**  
**Father, forgive us.**  
**Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;**  
**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Declaration of forgiveness:**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him  
in faith, pardon us and set us free from all our sins, strengthen us to  
do his will, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayers for our Church and the World**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **Prayer Reflection**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of the Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

In your Word made flesh, You have caused  
a new light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
By his death on the cross and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.  
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
After Supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again, we celebrate,  
with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.  
Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal  
kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Prayer**

God of heaven, dwelling among us,  
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.  
By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh  
that as his body in the world  
we may bring your presence to all people.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

## **Notices**

### **Song: O Come all ye Faithful**

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

**O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord**

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
O sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God all  
Glory in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing

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### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
And give you peace. **Amen.**