

# 11:00pm Christmas Eve

## 24 December 2022

**Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

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: Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark the herald angels sing,

Glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled

Joyful all ye nations rise,

Join the triumph in the skies

With the angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem”

**Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!**

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time, behold him come,  
Offspring of the favoured one.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus our Immanuel

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more need die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth

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**Song: Angels we have heard on high**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angel's praise.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise.

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### **Advent Wreath: Christ Candle**

The advent candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and that he came to show us what God is like. The four candles reminded us of the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brought through his birth, death and resurrection.

The coming of the Messiah was told by prophets and angels. It was read in the stars by the Magi and longed for by the priests of the temple.

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.

#### ***Let us pray***

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. ***Amen***

### **Song: Christmas Hallelujah**

#### **Bible Reading: Micah 5.2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth,

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

## **Message**

### **Offering 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 to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

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### **Thanksgiving 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.

### **Confession**

**Merciful God our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
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.**

## **The Declaration of Forgiveness**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Reflective Star Prayer**

### **Song: Silent Night**

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

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glory streams from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!  
Christ the Saviour is born  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night:  
Wondrous star,  
lend your light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ our Saviour is born,  
Christ our Saviour is born.

Silent Night Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

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## **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**

- Christmas Day 9:30am St Chad's
- Services in January
- We wish you a merry Christmas & see you next year

### **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**

True God of true God,  
Light of Light eternal,  
lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten not created:

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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### **Blessing**

By the tender mercy of our God  
love has broken upon us!  
Light is given where once there was darkness  
and hope where there was only death.  
We go into this season knowing  
that God will guide our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**