

# 11pm Christmas Eve 24 December 2024

Welcome (Julia preaching, Sue leading, Heather music)

## 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: While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down,

And glory shone around.

‘Fear not’ said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);

‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind’.

To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke the angel;  
and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God,  
who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace.  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

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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: 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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**You tube – Praise the Lord**

**Bible Reading: Luke 2.8-20 (Jaq)**

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood

before 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, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>[c]</sup>  
<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## **Message (Julia)**

### **Offering 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!  
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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### **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.**

### **Prayer Reflection (Jaq)**

### **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.**

### **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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### **The Great Thanksgiving (Julia & Jaq to assist)**

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
- Lunch with the Vicar
- 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.**