

# 10am Sunday Morning Service

## 21 December 2025 - Seven Lessons and Carols

Welcome (Sue lead, Stuart music)

### Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest!

**And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to every conflicted soul.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And joy to every downcast spirit.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And love to everyone. Let us sing praises to our God.**

**Let us offer this light against the darkness.**

### 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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### **Advent Wreath: Love ( )**

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of **HOPE**, **PEACE**, and **JOY**. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE**. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy 10:17-19, we find these words:

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

How great is the love the Father has showered on us! This is how God showed His love: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps so that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts

with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Saviour. Amen.

**Bible Reading: Isaiah 9.2-7      The Light has Shone (Hilary)**

**Song: The Stars dance in Heaven**

**The stars dance in heaven  
They shine through the night  
To show us God's grace and God's glory  
But one star shines brightest  
For he is the light  
And he is the real Christmas story**

God designed the stars to shine  
The heavenly hosts adore him  
For he is loving, fair and kind  
And no other God stands before him

Jesus came to give us light  
So we could all behold him  
Salvation, joy, eternal life  
Are gifts for which we now adore him

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**Pray for the children (Sue)**

**Bible Reading: Isaiah 11.1-9 The Branch from the Root of Jesse (Colin L)**

**Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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.**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

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.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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### **Bible Reading: Luke 1.26-38 The Annunciation (Jacky R)**

#### **Song: From the Squalor**

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Saviour of the human race.  
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the Gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,  
Humble servant in the Father's hands,  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,  
Filled with mercy for the broken man.  
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;

Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –  
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,  
He was lifted on a cruel cross;  
He was punished for a world's transgressions,  
He was suffering to save the lost.  
He fights for breath, He fights for me,  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;  
And with a shout our souls are free –  
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,  
Interceding for His own beloved  
Till His Father calls to bring them home!  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;  
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,  
Giving glory to Immanuel!

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## **Bible Reading: Luke 2.1-7 The Birth of Jesus (Kate H)**

### **Song: It Came upon a Midnight Clear**

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, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

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.

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!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

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### **Bible Reading: Luke 2.8-20 Shepherds go to the manger (Zach)**

#### **Song: While Shepherds watched their Flocks**

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.'

'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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## **Reflection (Sue)**

### **Bible reading: Matthew 2.1-12 Kings from the East (Bruce R)**

#### **Offering Song: Song: O Holy Night**

O holy night the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born

O night divine O night, O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here came the wise men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our Friend  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name  
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever  
His power and glory, evermore proclaim  
His power and glory, evermore proclaim

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### **Thanksgiving for the Offering**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Bible Reading: John 1.1-14 The Pre-Eminent Word (Pat T)**

### **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.**

### **Prayers for our Church and the World (Zilpha)**

#### **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.**

### **Notices**

#### **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, rocks, 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.

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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.**