

Sunday, 5 December 2021

“.. greet also the church that meets at their house ..”

Romans 16.5 (NIV)

Today's preacher is:

Jerry Middleton

Morning Service

Welcome and Notices

Praise

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:

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:

Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66

Prayer

Reading

Romans 16:21-27

²¹ Timothy, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

²² I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings.

Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Children's Talk

Praise

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, Love Divine;
love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
love Incarnate, Love Divine;
worship we our Jesus;
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti, 1830-94

Prayer

Praise

In the bleak mid-winter,
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 mid-winter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but His mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved
with a kiss.

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.

Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-94

Prayer

Message

The Flock's The Future
Getting It Together
Romans 16:3-27

Prayer

Praise

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.

On Him the Holy Spirit pours
the promised sacred fire;
His power and wisdom, zeal and love
the anointed Son inspire.

He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes to cleanse the human mind
from thickest scales of sin,
and by the entrance of His words
give light and life within.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to heal,
and in His gospel to the poor
God's riches to reveal.

The silver trumpets sound aloud
God's year of jubilee;
our debts are all remitted now
and we may all go free.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with Your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge 1702-51
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Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen

Evening Service

Welcome and Notices

Praise

All
The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Women
They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;

and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Men

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Women

This star drew nigh to the north-west,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Men

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in His presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

All

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.

Traditional

Prayer

Reading

2 Timothy 3:1-9

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

⁶They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

Praise

Child in the manger,
infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on Him fall.

Once the most holy
child of salvation
gently and lowly
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
see Him victorious
o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold Him
on His throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy for ever
are His own.

Mary Macdonald, 1817-c. 1890
Tr. Lachlan Macbean, 1853-1931

Prayer

Message

Life On The Heights

Power

Prayer

Praise

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 Immanuel.

Philips Brooks, 1835-93

Sacrament

Praise

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 heav'n
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 Saviour's arms,
giving glory to Immanuel!

Stuart Townend

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Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen

Calendar for December

Christmas Dates

Wednesday 1 December

10am: mainly music

12.30pm: ReLaunch

Friday 3 December

7pm: Youth Group in the Church Hall

Saturday 4 December

10am: Sheila Kendall Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

2pm: Sunday School Party in the Church Hall
7pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Sunday 5 December

11am: Morning Service
6.30pm: Evening Service

Tuesday 7 December

7.30pm: Elders' Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday 8 December

10am: mainly music
12.30pm: ReLaunch

Saturday 11 December

7pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Sunday 12 December

11am: Morning Service
12.30pm: Youth Group Christmas Lunch in the Church Hall
6.30pm: Evening Service

Wednesday 15 December

10am: mainly music
12.30pm: ReLaunch
7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting on Zoom

Friday 17 December

7pm: Youth Group Christmas Party in the Hall

Saturday 18 December

10am: Carols on the Street
7pm: Prayer Meeting

Sunday 19 December

11am: Christmas Family Service
6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight Service

Wednesday 22 December

12.30pm: ReLaunch
7pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Friday 24 December

12.30pm: Re-centre

Saturday 25 December

10.30am: Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26 December

11am: Morning Service

Wednesday 29 December

7pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

All Church Services (Sunday and Wednesday) will be available on the home page of our website, on Facebook or YouTube.

Prayer Meetings will take place via Zoom (please download Zoom Cloud Meetings to your smart phone or open a free account on your computer, then email rosie.mckie@gilcomston.org to be placed on the mailing list).

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