

Sunday, 12 December 2021

*".. my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour .."*

Luke 1:47 (NIV)

Today's preacher is:

Jerry Middleton

## Morning Service

### Welcome and Notices

### Praise

#### **Joy has dawned upon the world,**

promised from creation:

God's salvation now unfurled,  
hope for ev'ry nation.

Not with fanfares from above,  
not with scenes of glory,  
but a humble gift of love:  
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
with the songs of angels,  
as the mighty Prince of Life  
shelters in a stable.

Hands that set each star in place,  
shaped the earth in darkness,  
cling now to a mother's breast,  
vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,  
gazing at the glory;  
gifts of men from distant lands  
prophesy the story.

Gold, a King is born today,  
incense, God is with us,  
myrrh, His death will make a way,  
and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,  
given as a ransom,  
reconciling God and man,  
Christ our mighty Champion!  
What a Saviour, what a Friend,  
what a glorious mystery:  
once a babe in Bethlehem,  
now the Lord of history.

*Stuart Townend and Keith Getty*  
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### Prayer

### Reading

#### **Luke 1:46-55**

Mary's Song

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
53 He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

## Children's Talk

### Praise

#### **Cradled in a manger, meanly**

laid the Son of Man His head;  
sleeping His first earthly slumber  
where the oxen had been fed.  
Happy were those shepherds listening  
to the holy angel's word;  
happy they within that stable,  
worshipping their infant Lord.

Happy all who hear the message  
of His coming from above;  
happier still who hail His coming,  
and with praises greet His love.  
Blessed Saviour, Christ most holy,  
in a manger Thou didst rest;  
canst Thou stoop again, yet lower  
and abide within my breast?

Evil things are there before Thee;  
in the heart, where they have fed,  
wilt Thou pitifully enter,  
Son of Man, and lay Thy head?  
Enter, then, O Christ most holy;  
make a Christmas in my heart;  
make a heaven on my manger;  
it is heaven where Thou art.

And to those who never listened  
to the message of Thy birth,  
who have winter, but no Christmas  
bringing them Thy peace on earth,  
send to these the joyful tidings;  
by all people, in each home,  
be there heard the Christmas anthem;  
praise to God, the Christ has come!

*George Stringer Rowe, 1830-1913*

### Prayer

## Praise

### God rest you merry, gentlemen

let nothing you dismay  
remember Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save poor souls from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray,  
and it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *Women*

From God that is our Father,  
the blessed Angels came  
unto some certain shepherds  
with tidings of the same;  
that there was born in Bethlehem,  
the Son of God by name.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *Men*

Go, fear not, said God's Angels,  
let nothing you affright,  
for there is born in Bethlehem,  
of a pure Virgin bright,  
one able to advance you,  
and throw down Satan quite.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *All*

The shepherds at those tidings,  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding  
in tempest storms of wind,  
and strait they came to Bethlehem,  
the Son of God to find.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *Women*

Now when they came to Bethlehem,  
where our sweet Saviour lay,  
they found Him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay,  
the blessed Virgin kneeling down,  
unto the Lord did pray.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *Men*

With sudden joy and gladness,  
the shepherds were beguil'd,  
to see the Babe of Israel,  
before His mother mild,  
on them with joy and cheerfulness,  
rejoice each mother's child.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

#### *All*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
like we true loving brethren,  
each other to embrace,  
for the merry time of Christmas,

is drawing on a-pace.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

*Traditional*

## Prayer

## Message

Life-Changing

## Prayer

## Praise

### **He is born, our Lord and Saviour:**

He is born, our heav'nly King;  
give Him honour, give Him glory,  
earth rejoice and heaven sing!  
Born to be our sanctuary,  
born to bring us light and peace;  
for our sins to bring forgiveness,  
from our guilt to bring release.

He who is from everlasting  
now becomes th'incarnate Word;  
He whose name endures for ever  
Now is born the Son of God:  
born to bear our griefs and sorrows,  
born to banish hate and strife;  
born to bear the sin of many,  
born to give eternal life!

Hail, the Holy One of Israel,  
chosen heir to David's throne;  
Hail the brightness of His rising -  
to His light the Gentiles come:  
plunderer of Satan's kingdom,  
downfall of his evil pow'r;  
rescuer of all His people,  
conqueror in death's dark hour!

He shall rule with righteous judgement,  
and His godly rule extend;  
governor among the nations,  
His great kingdom has no end:  
He shall reign, the King of glory,  
higher than the kings of earth -  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise we now His holy birth!

*Jimmy Owens*

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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

**Angels from the realms of glory,**  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth;  
*Come and worship*  
*Christ, the new born King:*  
*come and worship,*  
*worship Christ the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light;  
*Come and worship...*

Sages, leave your contemplations  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen His natal star;  
*Come and worship...*

Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly, the Lord, descending,  
in His temple shall appear;  
*Come and worship...*

Sinners, brought to true repentance,  
bound by sin to endless pains,  
justice now revokes the sentence,  
mercy calls you – break your chains;  
*Come and worship...*

*James Montgomery, 1777-1854*

## Prayer

## Praise

**Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,**  
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;  
leaving Your throne in glad surrender,  
sapphire paved courts for stable floor:  
Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,  
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

You are our God beyond all praising,  
yet, for love's sake, became a man  
stooping so low, but sinners raising  
heavenwards, by Your eternal plan:  
You are our God beyond all praising,  
yet for love's sake, became a man.

Lord, You are love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship You;  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
make us and keep us pure and true:  
Lord You are love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship You.

*F. Houghton 1894-1972*

## Reading

### John 1:1-18

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

## Praise

**See in yonder manger low,**  
born for us on earth below,  
see! The tender Lamb appears  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem,*  
*'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Lo! Within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim:

Say, ye holy shepherds say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on that lonely mountain steep.

'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo! We saw a wondrous light:  
angels, singing peace on earth,  
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

Sacred Infant, all Divine,  
what a tender love was Thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
by Thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble Thee  
in Thy sweet humility.

*Edward Caswall, 1814-78*

## Prayer

## Message

Grace Upon Grace

## Prayer

### Praise

**Who is this, so weak and helpless,**  
child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
rudely in a stable sheltered,  
coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation,  
who this wondrous path hath trod;  
he is God from everlasting,  
and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,  
walking sadly life's hard way,  
homeless, weary, sighing, weeping  
over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Saviour,  
who above the starry sky  
now for us a place prepareth,  
where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold Him shedding  
drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected,  
mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces  
poureth on His Church below,  
now, in royal might victorious,  
triumphing o'er every foe.

Who is this that hangeth dying  
while the rude world scoffs and scorns,  
numbered with the malefactors,  
pierced with nails, and crowned with thorns?  
'Tis the God who ever liveth  
'mid the shining ones on high,  
in the glorious golden city  
reigning everlastingly.

*William Walsham How, 1823-97*

### 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.

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