

Sunday, 19 December 2021

...to give His people the knowledge of salvation...

Luke 1:77 (NIV)

Today's preacher is:

Jerry Middleton

## Morning 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

### Reading

#### Luke 1:67-75

Zechariah's Song

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David

<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

### Talk: The Promise

### Praise

#### Away in a manger,

no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus

lay down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky

look down where He lay,

the little Lord Jesus

asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,

the baby awakes,

but little Lord Jesus

no crying He makes.

I love You Lord Jesus,

look down from the sky

and stay by my side until

morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus,

I ask You to stay

close by me forever

and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children

in Your tender care

and fit us for Heaven,

to live with You there.

*Sir David Willcocks/W J Kirkpatrick*

**Sunday School Children:** I heard the bells on Christmas Day

#### Jesus, good above all other,

gentle child of gentle mother,

in a stable born our brother,

give us grace to persevere.

Jesus, cradled in a manger,

for us facing every danger,

living as a homeless stranger,

make we t=Thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for Thy people dying,

risen Master, death defying

Lord in heaven, Thy grace supplying,

keep us to Thy presence near.

Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,

all our thoughts and hopes Thou sharest;

Thou to man the truth declarest;

help us all Thy truth to hear.

Lord, in all our doings guide us;

pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;

we'll go on with Thee beside us,  
and with joy we'll persevere!

*Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936*

### Reading

Luke 1:76-79

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
**77** to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
**78** because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
**79** to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

### 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*  
© 1999 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

### Talk: The Best Gift Of All

### Prayer

### Praise

### Hark! The herald angels sing,

'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the Incarnate Deity,  
pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

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 man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

*Charles Wesley, 1707-88*

### 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

#### Once in royal David's city

stood a lowly cattle-shed,  
where a mother laid her Baby  
in a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable,  
and His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms He lay,  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern:  
day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us He knew,  
and He feeleth for our sadness,  
and He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
through His own redeeming love;  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and He leads His children on  
to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, His children crowned  
all in white shall gather round.

*Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95*

### Prayer

### Praise

**Infant holy,**  
infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing,  
little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging  
angels singing,  
nowells ringing,  
tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping,  
shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory,  
heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
free from sorrow,  
praises voicing,  
greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!

*Polish carol authorship attributed to Piotr Skarga (1536-1612)  
tr. Edith MG Reed, 1885-1933*

### Reading

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

### Praise

**Good Christians all, rejoice**  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say,  
News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss,  
Joy! Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath oped the heavenly door,  
and all are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;

now ye need not fear the grave,  
Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save.  
Calls you one, and calls you all,  
to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

*John Mason Neale, 1818-66*

### Reading

#### Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### Praise

**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.

But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angel sing.

For, lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the Age of Gold,  
when peace shall over all the earth

its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Edmond Hamilton Sears, 1810-76*

### Reading

#### Luke 2:1-15

The Birth of Jesus

<sup>2</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

### Praise

#### As with gladness men of old

did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heaven and earth adore,  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at Thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
hallelujahs to our King.

*William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98*

### Reading

#### Matthew 2:1-11

The Magi Visit the Messiah

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### Praise

#### Still the night! Holy the night!

Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest;  
sleeping in heavenly rest.

Still the night! Holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near, the angel-song,  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!  
Christ the Redeemer is here!'

Still the night! Holy the night!  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from Thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since Thou art born!  
Saviour, since Thou art born!

*Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848*

**Message: What Will You Call Him?**

### Prayer

### Praise

**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.*

God of God,  
light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created;  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God  
in the highest':  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*John Wade c. 1711-86*

*Tr. Frederick Oakley 1802-80*

### 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

##### 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](mailto:rosie.mckie@gilcomston.org) to be placed on the mailing list).

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