



# Gilcomston Church

# Sunday 4 December

*..he was lost and is found ...  
Luke 15:32*

# **Morning Service**

**Christmas Dinner!**

**Luke 15:11-32**

**Rev Jerry Middleton**

**O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
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:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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;  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66*

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**Prayer**

# Luke 15: 11-20

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

## Luke 15:11-20

<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

# Luke 15.11-20

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

# Luke 15.11-20

<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

# Children's Talk

**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*

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# Prayer

**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!**

**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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# **Message**

**Christmas Dinner!**  
**Luke 15:11-32**

# Prayer

**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.**

# Sacrament

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*

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

# **Evening Service**

**Motivated, Mobilised, Maximised**  
**2 Chronicles 26:1-15**

*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.**

*All*

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

*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.**

*All*

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

*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.**

*All*

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

*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*

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

*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.**

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

*Traditional*

# Prayer

## 2 Chronicles 26. 1-15

Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. <sup>2</sup> He was the one who rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah rested with his ancestors.

<sup>3</sup> Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jekoliah; she was from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.

## **2 Chronicles 26. 1-15**

<sup>5</sup> He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

<sup>6</sup> He went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. <sup>7</sup> God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites. <sup>8</sup> The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

## 2 Chronicles 26. 1-15

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall, and he fortified them. <sup>10</sup> He also built towers in the wilderness and dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

<sup>11</sup> Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials.

## 2 Chronicles 26. 1-15

<sup>12</sup> The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600. <sup>13</sup> Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies. <sup>14</sup> Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army. <sup>15</sup> In Jerusalem he made devices invented for use on the towers and on the corner defenses so that soldiers could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

# Prayer

**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*

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# Message

**Motivated, Mobilised, Maximised**  
**2 Chronicles 26:1-15**

**Prayer**

**Hark, the glad sound!  
The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart exult with joy,  
and every voice be song!**

**On Him the Spirit, largely shed,  
exerts its sacred fire;  
wisdom and might,  
and zeal and love,  
His holy breast inspire.**

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

**He comes  
the darkening scales of vice  
to clear the inward sight;  
and on the eye-balls of the blind  
to pour celestial light.**

**He comes,  
the broken hearts to bind,  
the bleeding souls to cure;  
and with the treasures  
of His grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**

**The sacred year  
has now revolved,  
accepted of the Lord,  
when heaven's high promise  
is fulfilled,  
and Israel is restored.**

**Our glad hosannas,  
Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's exalted arches ring  
with Thy most honoured Name.**

*Philip Doddridge, 1702-51*

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

# Church Calendar

You'll find dates for your diary on our  
website:

<http://www.gilcomston.org/calendar>