



Gilcomston Church

Sunday 1 January

*..God showed His love among us...
1 John 4:9*

Morning Service

**Let Us Love One Another
Seeing The Invisible God**

1 John 4:7-21

Rev Jerry Middleton

**Let earth and heaven combine,
angels and men agree,
to praise in songs divine,
the incarnate Deity,
our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man.**

**He laid His glory by,
He wrapped Him in our clay;
unmarked by human eye,
the latent Godhead lay;
infant of days He here became,
and bore the mild Immanuel's Name.**

**See in the infant's face
the depths of Deity;
endeavour, while you gaze,
to probe the mystery;
let even angels gaze no more,
but bow and silently adore.**

**Unsearchable the love
that hath the Saviour brought;
the grace is far above
or man or angel's thought:
suffice for us that God, we know,
our God, is manifest below.**

**He deigns in flesh to appear,
widest extremes to join;
to bring our vile-ness near,
and make us all divine:
and we the life of God shall know,
for God is manifest below.**

**Made perfect by His love,
and sanctified by grace,
we shall from earth remove,
and see His glorious face:
then shall His love be fully showed,
and man shall then be lost in God.**

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

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Prayer

I John 4.7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:7-12

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Children's Talk

**Be bold, be strong
for the Lord your God is with you.**

**Be bold, be strong
for the Lord your God is with you.**

I am not afraid, no, no, no.

I am not dismayed, not me.

For I'm walking in faith and victory.

**Come on and walk in faith and victory,
for the Lord your God is with you.**

**Be bold, be strong
for the Lord your God is with you.
Be bold, be strong
for the Lord your God is with you.**

**I am not afraid, no, no, no.
I am not dismayed, not me.
For I'm walking in faith and victory.
Come on and walk in faith and victory,
for the Lord your God is with you.**

Andy Silver

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Prayer

**Lord, for the years
Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years,
we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word,
the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us;
Lord of the word,
receive Your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure,
wealth and care;
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world,
when we disown and doubt Him,
loveless in strength,
and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without Him;
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord, for ourselves,
in living power remake us -
self on the cross
and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Timothy Dudley Smith

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Message

Seeing The Invisible God
1 John 4:7-21

Prayer

**Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father
and I Thy true heir:
Thou in me dwelling
and I in Thy care.**

**Be Thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be Thou my armour
and be Thou my might:
Thou my soul's shelter
and Thou my high tower;
raise Thou me heav'nward,
O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not,
nor all the world's praise;
Thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
Thou, and Thou only,
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art!**

**High King of heaven,
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish, tr. Mary Byrne

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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

The Message
Luke 2:8-15

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting Thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be Thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

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Prayer

**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

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Luke 2. 8-15

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Luke 2. 8-15

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

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

**14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”**

15 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.”

Prayer

**Thou didst leave Thy throne
and Thy kingly crown
when Thou camest to earth for me,
but in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity;
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
proclaiming Thy royal decree;
but of lowly birth
cam'st Thou, Lord, on earth,
and in great humility:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**The foxes found rest,
and the bird its nest,
in the shade of the forest tree;
but Thy couch was the sod,
O Thou Son of God,
in the deserts of Galilee:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
that should set Thy people free;
but, with mocking scorn,
and with crown of thorn,
they bore Thee to Calvary:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
Thy Cross is my only plea.**

**When heaven's arches ring,
and her choirs shall sing,
at Thy coming to victory,
let Thy voice call me home,
saying, 'Yet there is room,
there is room at My side for thee!'
and my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
when Thou comest and callest for me.**

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott, 1836-97

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Message

The Message
Luke 2:8-15

Prayer

**Who is He, in yonder stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
*'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.***

**Who is He, in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?
*'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.***

**Who is He that stands and weeps
at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?**

'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!

'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!

At His feet we humbly fall;

crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

**Who is He, in Calvary's throes,
asks for blessings on His foes?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?**

'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!

'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!

At His feet we humbly fall;

crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

**Who is He that from His throne
rules the world of light alone?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

Benjamin Russell Hanby, 1833-67

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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>