



Gilcomston Church

Sunday 17 December

... to prepare the way for Him...

Luke 1:76

Morning Service

Getting Ready For Jesus
Luke 1:76-79

Rev Jerry Middleton

**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
prophecy 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 2004 Thankyou Music

All words reproduced under CCLI no 293885

Prayer

Matthew 1.18-21

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

Matthew 1.18-21

²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.”

Children's Talk

**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 for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in Your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with You there.**

Anonymous

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Luke 1.26-33

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1.26-33

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Luke 1.26-33

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

**In a stable down in Bethlehem
Jesus Christ was born.**

**In a stable down in Bethlehem
Jesus Christ was born.**

**In a stable down in Bethlehem
Jesus Christ was born.**

**King of kings and the Saviour
and the Lord of lords.**

**The angels fill the heavens,
singing “Glory to the King!”
The angels fill the heavens,
singing “Glory to the King!”
The angels fill the heavens,
singing “Glory to the King!”
King of kings and the Saviour
and the Lord of lords.**

**The shepherds ran to see Him,
Baby Jesus in the hay.**

**The shepherds ran to see Him,
Baby Jesus in the hay.**

**The shepherds ran to see Him,
Baby Jesus in the hay.**

**King of kings and the Saviour
and the Lord of lords.**

**Wise men brought Him presents;
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Wise men brought Him presents;
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Wise men brought Him presents;
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**King of kings and the Saviour
and the Lord of lords.**

**Jesus, now we worship You
who died to set us free.**

**Jesus, now we worship You
who died to set us free.**

**Jesus, now we worship You
who died to set us free.**

**King of kings and the Saviour
and the Lord of lords.**

Colin Buchanan

Luke 2.1-7

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

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,

Luke 2.1-7

because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

**Child in a manger born
lies in a cattle stall.
Safely He's sleeping,
Mary is keeping
close beside her baby so small.**

**Angels watch over Him,
softly their praises sing,
voices ascending,
joy never ending,
glory be to Jesus the King.**

***And God in the heavens above
looks down with a heart full of love.***

**Leaving their flocks behind,
shepherds have come to find
Jesus the Saviour
Lord of the Ages,
here within the stable tonight.
*And God in the heavens above
looks down with a heart full of love.***

**Wise men from far and wide
kneel at the baby's side,
gazing in wonder,
praising the Son who
came to earth to lay down His life.
*And God in the heavens above
looks down with a heart full of love.***

**Child in a manger born,
I want to know You more,
know You are near me,
love You more dearly,
Jesus, my Lord.**

Mark and Helen Johnston

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Getting Ready For Jesus
Luke 1:76-79

Luke 1.76-79

⁷⁶ 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,

Luke 1.76-79

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.”

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

© 1999 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

**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

Born To Raise The Sons Of Earth

Exodus 3:7-8

Rev Jerry Middleton

**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,
Io! 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

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Prayer

John 1. 1-14

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.

John 1. 1-14

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.

John 1. 1-14

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.

John 1. 1-14

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.

**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

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Isaiah 9. 2-7

² The people walking in
darkness

have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of
deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³ 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.

Isaiah 9. 2-7

⁴ 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.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle

 and every garment rolled in
blood

will be destined for burning,
 will be fuel for the fire.

Isaiah 9. 2-7

⁶ 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.

Isaiah 9. 2-7

⁷ 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.

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

Luke 1. 26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1. 26-38

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

Luke 1. 26-38

³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1. 26-38

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**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

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Luke 1. 68-75

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the
God of Israel,
because he has come to his
people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^[a] of
salvation for us

in the house of his servant
David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy
prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who
hate us—

Luke 1. 68-75

⁷² to show mercy to our
ancestors

and to remember his holy
covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our
father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of
our enemies,

and to enable us to serve
him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and
righteousness before him all
our days.

**Unto us a boy is born,
all the bells are ringing!
Angels greet the holy One
and shepherds hear them singing,
and shepherds hear them singing.**

**‘Go to Bethlehem today,
find your king and saviour;
glory be to God on high,
to earth His peace and favour,
to earth His peace and favour!’**

**Held within a cattle stall,
loved by love maternal,
see the master of us all,
our Lord of lords eternal,
our Lord of lords eternal.**

**Soon shall come the wise men three,
rousing Herod's anger,
mothers' hearts shall broken be
and Mary's son in danger,
and Mary's son in danger.**

**Death from life and life from death,
our salvation's story:**

**let all living things give breath
to Christmas songs of glory,
to Christmas songs of glory.**

Michael Perry

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Luke 2.1-7

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

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,

Luke 2.1-7

because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

Born To Raise The Sons Of Earth
Exodus 3:7-8

Exodus 3.7-8

⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

Exodus 3.7-8

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

**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, 1707-88All

words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

**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>