

Sunday 15 December

Morning Service

What's all the fuss?

Luke 1:67-79

Rev Nathan Owens

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

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

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

**‘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.’**

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

**Sacred Infant, all Divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***

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

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

Edward Caswall, 1814-78

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Prayer

Luke 1:67-79

**⁶⁷ And his father
Zechariah was filled with
the Holy Spirit and
prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ “Blessed be the
Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited
and redeemed his people**

Luke 1:67-79

**⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn
of salvation for us
in the house of his
servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the
mouth of his holy prophets
from of old,**

Luke 1:67-79

**71 that we should be saved
from our enemies**

**and from the hand of all
who hate us;**

**72 to show the mercy
promised to our fathers**

**and to remember his
holy covenant,**

Luke 1:67-79

**73 the oath that he swore to
our father Abraham, to
grant us**

**74 that we, being
delivered from the hand of
our enemies,
might serve him without
fear,**

Luke 1:67-79

75 in holiness and
righteousness before
him all our days.

76 And you, child, will be
called the prophet of the
Most High;

for you will go before the
Lord to prepare his ways,

Luke 1:67-79

**⁷⁷ to give knowledge of
salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their
sins,**

**⁷⁸ because of the tender
mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise
shall visit us from on high**

Luke 1:67-79

**79 to give light to those who
sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the
way of peace.”**

Children's Talk

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not,’ said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.’**

**'To you, in David's town, this day,
is born, of David's line,
the Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands,
and in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, and thus
addressed their joyful song:
'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill is shown by heaven to men,
and never more shall cease.'**

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

Prayer

**Cradled in a manger, meantly
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

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Prayer



What's all
the Fuss?

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

**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

That's my King!

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev Nathan Owens

**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

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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 in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:1-14

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

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.

John 1:1-14

⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:1-14

**¹⁰ He was in the world,
and the world was made
through him, yet the
world did not know
him. ¹¹ He came to his
own, and his own
people did not receive
him.**

John 1:1-14

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:1-14

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.**

Philips Brooks, 1835-93

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Luke 1:26-28

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:26-28

28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!”

**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 around.**

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95

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Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Luke 2:1-7

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

Luke 2:1-7

⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Luke 2:1-7

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**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

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Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

Luke 2:8-20

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:8-20

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Luke 2:8-20

**14 “Glory to God in the
highest,
and on
earth peace among
those with whom he is
pleased!”**

Luke 2:8-20

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Luke 2:8-20

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

Luke 2:8-20

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Luke 2:8-20

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**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 had gone astray,**

***And it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!***

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.**

All

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.**

All

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.**

All

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.**

All

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

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Isaiah 9:2-7

**The people who walked
in darkness
 have seen a great
light;
those who dwelt in a land
of deep darkness,
 on them has light
shined.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**³ You have multiplied the
nation;
you have increased its
joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the
harvest,
as they are glad when
they divide the spoil.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**4 For the yoke of his
burden,
and the staff for his
shoulder,
the rod of his
oppressor,
you have broken as on
the day of Midian.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**⁵ For every boot of the
tramping warrior in battle
tumult**

**and every garment
rolled in blood**

**will be burned as 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
shall be upon his
shoulder, and his name
shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**⁷ Of the increase of his
government and of
peace**

**there will be no end,
on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**to establish it and to
uphold it
with justice and with
righteousness
from this time forth and
for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of
hosts will do this.**



THAT'S MY KING



**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

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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.**