

Sunday 22 December

Morning Service

The greatest story ever told

Revelation 12:1-6

Rev Nathan Owens

**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

Prayer

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

**“Because you have done
this,
cursed are you above
all livestock
and above all beasts of
the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.**

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

**¹⁶ To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your
pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring
forth children.
Your desire shall be
for your husband,
and he shall rule over
you.”**

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

**17 And to Adam he said,
“Because you have
listened to the voice of
your wife
and have eaten of the
tree
of which I commanded
you,
‘You shall not eat of it’,**

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

**cursed is the ground
because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it
all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall
bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the
plants of the field.**

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

**19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the
ground,
for out of it you were
taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall
return.”**

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live for ever—”

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-24

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

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 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!”**

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Luke 2:8-20

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Luke 2:8-20

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

**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

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Revelation 12:1-6

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

Revelation 12:1-6

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

Revelation 12:1-6

And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

Revelation 12:1-6

⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,

Revelation 12:1-6

⁆ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.



The greatest
story ever told

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

Your sweetest songs employ

while fields and streams

and hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make His blessings flow
where Eden's curse is found,
where Eden's curse is found,
wherever Eden's curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders of His love,
the wonders, the wonders of His love.**

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

All words reproduced under CCLI 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.**

Evening Service

Confounded by a foolish gospel?

Luke 1:5-38

Rev Nathan Owens

**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 op'ed 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!**

Prayer

Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Luke 1:5-25

⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Luke 1:5-25

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

Luke 1:5-25

¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luke 1:5-25

¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,

Luke 1:5-25

and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord.

Luke 1:5-25

And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

Luke 1:5-25

17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 1:5-25

18 And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”

19 And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel.

Luke 1:5-25

I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words,

Luke 1:5-25

which will be fulfilled in their time.”²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

Luke 1:5-25

22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.

Luke 1:5-25

23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying,

Luke 1:5-25

25 “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

**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

All words are reproduced under Christian Copyright licence no. 293885

Luke 1:26-38

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 1:26-38

28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:26-38

³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Luke 1:26-38

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

Luke 1:26-38

therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Luke 1:26-38

37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.



Confounded by a foolish Gospel?



**On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring -
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?**

**When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.**

**All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.'**

Traditional

All 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.**