



Refreshments are served from 4.30pm in the Church Room

Welcome

Joy to the world! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

Drama: The ox and the donkey

Bible Readings: Isaiah 1.2-5

Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken:
“I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.
The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner’s manger,
but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”
Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great,
a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption!
They have forsaken the LORD;
they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.
Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion?
Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted.

Luke 2.8-12

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Silent night, holy night,

All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child;
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Franz Xaver Gruber

Message:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked 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 Thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Prayers

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.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace upon the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
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 Emmanuel.

Christmas Blessing:

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the Wise Men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary
and the peace of the Christ child be ours this Christmas time.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and for always. Amen.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new Year!

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If you want to learn more about the hope, peace and purpose that Jesus brings, why not join us for three Friday evenings of 'Hope Explored' starting on Friday 14 January at 7.00pm in the Church Room?