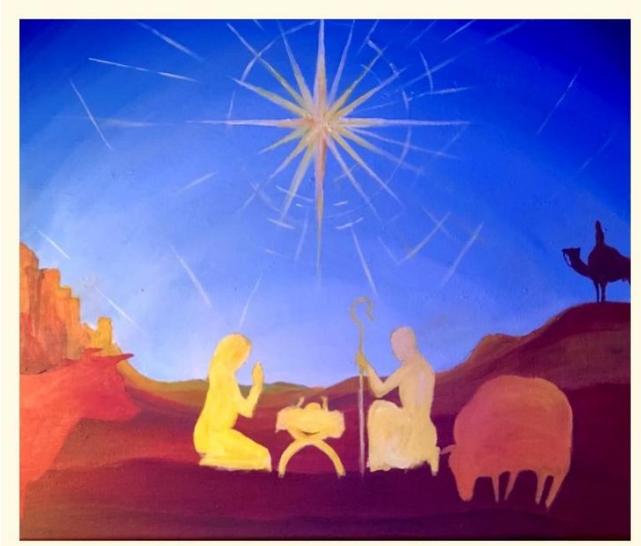


# **“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”**

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2018

## **Christmas Eve**



*c. Richard Stokoe*

*Prelude King Jesus Hath a Garden, harmony Charles Wood  
Ding Dong! Merrily on High, arr. David Willcocks*

Welcome and announcements

### **Call to Worship and Approach to God**

On this night, O God,  
the soles of your feet  
have touched the earth.

**On this night, O God,  
the back street, the forgotten place  
have been lit up with significance.**

On this night, O God,  
the households of earth  
welcome the King of Heaven,  
for you have come among us,  
you are one with us.

**So may our songs rise to surround your throne  
as our knees bend to salute your cradle.**

## Hymn and lighting of advent candles:

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in your streets is shining  
The everlasting Light:  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in you tonight.
2. O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.
3. 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.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sine, 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.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

## Prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer

*(but please say this in whichever language or version you prefer.)*

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## Hymn:

1. 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
2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!
3. Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

## The Word of God

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 6:1-5

*Choir The Angel Gabriel, Baspue carol, arr. Anthony Prower*

**Second Lesson:** Luke 2:8-20

## Hymn:

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the Earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
'Peace on the Earth, goodwill to you  
from heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
3. But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angels' hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the love-song which they bring;  
oh, hush the noise and still the strife  
to hear the angels sing.
4. And you, beneath life's crushing load  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! For glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing.
5. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when, with the ever-circling years,  
still dawns the Age of Gold,  
when peace shall overall the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)*

**Sermon** *Glory and peace*

*followed by pause for reflection*

## Response to the Word

### Hymn:

1. In the bleak midwinter  
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 midwinter long ago
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed,  
the Lord Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him who cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk  
and a mangerful of hay;  
enough for him whom angels  
fall down before  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.
4. Angels and archangels  
may have worshipped there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

## Prayers of Intercession

### **Offering and dedication**     *Jesu, My Son*, Chilean carol, arr. Mary Caldwell

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.

### **Hymn**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. O come, all ye faithful,<br>joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br>Come and behold him,<br>Born the king of angels:<br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>Christ the Lord.</i> | 3. Sing, choirs of angels,<br>sing in exaltation,<br>sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,<br>'Glory to God<br>in the highest':<br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>O come let us adore him,</i><br><i>Christ the Lord.</i> |
| 2. God of God,<br>Light of light,<br>Lo! he abhors not the virgin womb;<br>Very God,<br>Begotten not created:<br><i>O come let us adore him...</i>  | 4. Yea, Lord we greet thee,<br>born this happy morning;<br>Jesus, to thee be glory given:<br>Word of the Father,<br>now in flesh appearing:<br><i>O come let us adore him....</i>  |

### **The Blessing** (*Sung Amen*)

*Postlude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, J.S. Bach*

*The congregation is asked to remain in place until the Minister  
and Choir members have left the Church.*

*Please turn off your mobile phone during the service.*

*The Service is conducted by our minister, Rev Dr Lance Stone.*

*Holy Scripture is read by our church Scriba, Heleen Koning. Prayers of intercession  
are led by our Church Treasurer, Thorsten König .*

*Office-bearers on duty are Heleen Koning and Peggy Krol.*

*You are welcome to join us tomorrow morning for our Christmas Day all-age service  
at 10.30 hrs.*

---