

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

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2019  
**Christmas Eve 5:30pm**



*c. Richard Stokoe*

*Prelude*

Welcome and announcements

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

Do not be afraid; for see –  
I am bringing you good news of great joy.  
**To us is born this day in the city of David  
A Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you:  
You will find a child wrapped in cloth  
And lying in a manger.  
**Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace.**

## **Hymn and lighting of advent candles:**

1. 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 fear of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth!

3. 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.
4. 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!

**Prayer**, ending with the Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

**Hymn**

1. See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore -  
the Prince of Igory is his name.
2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the Saviour of the world!
3. Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;  
sing that Beh'lem's little baby can  
be the saviour of us all.
4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of glory when he came.*

**The Word of God**

**Lesson:** Luke 2:1-7

**Hymn**

1. While shepherds watch their flock  
by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.
2. "Fear not!" he said, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind.  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind."
3. "To You, in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign."
4. "The heav-nly Babe you there  
shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God on high,  
Who thus addressed their song:
6. "All glory be to God on high,  
And to the Earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men  
Begin and never cease!"

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

### **Hymn (v.1):**

See! in yonder manger low, born for us on earth below,  
see! the tender Lamb appears promised from eternal years.

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

### **The Story of The Three Trees (i)**

#### **Hymn (v.2)**

Lo! within a manger lies he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

### **The Story of The Three Trees (ii)**

#### **Hymn (v.3)**

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

### **The Story of the Three Trees (iii)**

#### **Hymn (v.4)**

'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.'

### **The Story of the Three Trees (iv)**

#### **Hymn (v.5)**

Sacred Infant, all Divine, what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

### **Meditation:**

## **Response to the Word**

### **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

## Prayers of intercession

### Offering and dedication:

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. Hark! The harold angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all e nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The harold angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity.  
Please as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The harold angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more ma die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The harold angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

### The Blessing (*Sung Amen*)

#### *Postlude*

*The congregation are 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, Revd Dr Lance Stone.*

*Holy Scripture is read by . Prayers of intercession are led by .*

*Tonight at 22.30 pm we have another Carol service to which you are warmly  
invited, and tomorrow morning at 10.30 hrs we celebrate Christmas Day  
with an all-age service. All welcome!*

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