

Service for Sunday 11 December 2022 – Carols

Introduction and Call to Worship

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

Hymn 12 O come, all ye faithful

Reading Isaiah 7:14-15

Prayer

Father, we praise you because you are not remote from us. You promised us your son, as your plan from the beginning. We praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn 2 In the bleak midwinter

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Prayer

Father, we praise you because you have loved us since you made us, you sent Jesus to be born as a baby and live among us, and you have given us your Holy Spirit to be with us for all time. Glory to you, O God. **Amen,**

Hymn * The Virgin Mary had a baby boy [on sheet or screen]

Congregational Reading – Magnificat

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayer

Father, we praise you because Mary looked forward to bearing your Son, and because she knew that you love your people and want us all to join your kingdom of justice and peace. We bring you our thanks and praise. **Amen.**

Hymn 13 Silent night

Reading Luke 2.1-20

Father, we praise you because the coming of your Son was proclaimed, not to the rich and powerful, but to the ordinary people doing their daily work, who found themselves joining in the praise of your angels. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! **Amen.**

Hymn 14 It came upon the midnight clear

Reading John 1.1-14

Sermon

Hymn 1 O little town of Bethlehem

Collect

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you
...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness ...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities ...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer...
your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,

hear our prayer,

receive our praises, fill our lives. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 10 Hark the herald angels sing

Prayer

Father, we thank and praise you because you have given us the greatest of all gifts in your Son Jesus Christ. As we prepare gifts for those around us, may we remember all in need. As we enjoy food and drink, make us ready to share with others. As we admire displays and decorations, fill us with wonder at your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who was born in poverty and humility, and is exalted to your right hand on high. **Amen.**

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;

And we bless one another with the Grace:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and for ever. Amen.

Music at end

For unto us a child is born (from "Messiah" by Handel) – 4:19
Choir of King's College, Cambridge conducted by Sir David Willcocks
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