

***On Line*****1st Hymn – Joy to The World**

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy. But first let us acknowledge that:

“This is the day the Lord has made. So, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

**Now stretch out your hand to the screen and let's virtually take hands and say:**

‘Jesus Loves you and so do I’

And more. I bring you good news of great joy:

**A saviour has been born to us. Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born.

**Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**Thanks be to God**

To help shine this light in our world we now light our Christmas candles

[Ask for those who wish to light a candle \(Max 4\)](#)

**First Candle:** We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

**Second Candle:** We work for peace - because Jesus is the ‘Prince of Peace’ and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

**Third Candle:** We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of the God

**Fourth Candle:** We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

**Last Candle (Christmas Day):** Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

**Let us pray,** Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. **Amen.**

**Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:**

“You shall call his name Jesus. For he will save his people from their sins”. Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the saviour of the world.

When we confess it is always a call to experience God's mercy. In admitting the truth of our loves to our loving God, we open ourselves to the experience of grace and healing. Trusting in that divine love, let us pray, first in silence.

**\*\*Back on Screen**

We say together (A time of silence is kept as we remember those things we want to bring to God)

**Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong.  
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.**

**We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us from our sin, Free us from our captivity, Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; and out of that love God sent Jesus Christ to die for us that we may be restored to life. Therefore, as Isaiah proclaimed, as Mary and Elizabeth proclaimed, as Simeon and Anna proclaimed, so too, can we proclaim to one another now:

**God redeems you and restores you,**

**God loves you and forgives you,**

**God sees you and claims you!**

**Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** - Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - Psalm 96 (NIV)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn** – O come all ye faithful

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** - Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

**Sermon** – Dr Alison Johnston

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn** – See him lying on a bed of straw

*Let Us hold our hands in order to receive the grace of God as we say our commitment creed*

**We are not what we do.**

**We are not what we have.**

**We are not what people say about us.**

**We are the beloved of God.**

**Here in Caversham Park.**

**It's who we are.**

**No one can take it from us.  
As one united in the body of Christ.  
We don't have to worry.  
We don't have to hurry.  
We can trust in our friend Jesus,  
And share his love in the world,  
with all of God's children.**

**Amen.**

*Let us pray together with the following words (A prayer for all ages)*

**Christmas Christ, I offer you my hands: I will try to hold the weak and keep them safe. Christmas Christ, I offer you my mind: I will try to see the world with fresh and loving eyes. Christmas Christ I offer you my heart: I will try to risk my comfortable life for your sweet sake.**

**Amen.**

Now we say the grace together

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.**

**Amen.**

Jesus Christ, Babe of Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, fill us with such joy that we must share it; with such love that we must live it; with such peace that we must give it.

Fill us with your gracious Spirit, so that through our lives your blessings fill the world.

**Amen.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Hymn – O little town of Bethlehem**

**Prayers - Intercessions are offered (Robert)**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us;

**Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**5th Hymn— While shepherds watched their flocks**

In the power of the Holy Spirit we now continue to help and protect each other, to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

**Christ is our light that illumines and guides us. Christ as our shield that overshadows us. Christ is under us; Christ is over us; Christ is beside us and on our left and on our right. This day be within and without us, lowly and meek and yet all powerful. Be in the heart of each in whom we speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto us.**

**This day be within and without us, lowly and meek, yet all powerful. Christ as our light; Christ as our shield; Christ beside us on our left and on our right.**

Go in peace as you leave this service today wherever you are, here in person or on-line; love and care for one another in Christ's name, and may the Christmas Christ watch over you, may our shepherd and our shield defend you, and may our rock and our fortress, our judge and our hope, keep you safe and strong within his life-giving word, now and forevermore.

May the blessing of Almighty God go before you. May His grace and peace abound. May the Holy Spirit live within you. May Christ's love wrap you 'round. May the father's blessing remain with you always. May you walk on holy ground.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**6h Hymn**— Hark the herald angels sing