



Welcome – Rebecca Stewart

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 dark streets shining
is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to men on 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 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.

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.

Phillips Brooks

Advent Wreath



Church Family News

Follow the Star (Verses 1-4)



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 bedside till 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.

Martin Luther, William James Kirkpatrick

Follow the Star (Verses 5-12)



Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

p965

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said

through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Talk: Philip Sudell

He will save his people from their sins

O holy night the stars are brightly shining

It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from the Orient land

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

He knows our need, He guards us from all danger

*Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend
O night divine, O night, O night divine*

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise
Let all within us praise His holy name

*Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever
His power and glory, evermore proclaim
O night divine, O night, O night divine*

Follow the Star (Verses 13-16)



While shepherds watched

Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"Fear not," he said,
For mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's
Town this day
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"

"The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped
In swathing bands
And in a manger laid"

Thus spake the seraph,
And forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease!"

Nahum Tate

Follow the Star (Verses 17-24)



See him lying on a bed of straw:

a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
the Prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men!
Just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came.*

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!
O now carry me to Bethlehem...

Angels, sing the song that you began,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.
O now carry me to Bethlehem...

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.
O now carry me to Bethlehem...

Michael Perry© Words: 1965 Michael Perry - The Jubilate Group Music:
1965 Michael Perry - The Jubilate Group

Confession

Heavenly Father, when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time we have not made room in our lives for you. Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Use this Christmas time to break open our hearts, open our eyes to your presence, and bring us on bended knee to welcome you - that we may know the peace and forgiveness that only Jesus brings. Amen.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who is with us all day, every day. Help us to celebrate this special gift through prayer and song and worship. Give us gifts of your love, joy and peace in our homes this Christmas. Amen.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;
Let every 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 all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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, wonders, of His love.

George Frederic Handel, Isaac Watts

Final Prayer

Please stay around to chat after the service over coffee/tea through in the hall



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Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
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The week ahead

Sun 21 st	9.30am 11am 3:30pm-5pm 6pm	Holy Communion Family Carols Choir Rehearsal Carols by Candlelight
Mon 22 nd		
Tues 23 rd		
Wed 24 th	11pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Thurs 25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration
Fri 26 th		Boxing Day
Sat 27 th		
Sun 28 th	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Service

Looking ahead



Jesus: in his own words

A 4 week course exploring what it means to become a follower of Jesus Christ. Each session is an hour long and looks at what Jesus says about why we need to follow him and how we do that from his words recorded in the gospels in the bible. 8-9pm - Wed 14th, 21st, 28th Jan and 4th Feb at 163 Colney Hatch Lane



Use the QR code to register your interest.

Winter Dates

Sun 21st Dec – Carol Services
Sun 4th Jan – Co-Mission Sunday
Sat 24th Jan – Co-mission Women's morning
Mon 26th Jan – Co-Mission Day of Prayer
Sat 28th Feb – Co-mission Men's morning



Christmas Services

