



## Before the service begins...

The stillness of the night is pierced  
with Mary's cry of birth  
as Heaven's years of silence cease:  
God's Word has come to earth.  
What joyful news the angels bring,  
their anthem fills the sky:  
O come and sing to Christ the King  
and praise our God on high.

The shepherds leave their flocks and fields  
in wonder to bow down  
before the infant Lamb of God,  
the heir to David's crown.  
For in this frail Immanuel  
God enters space and time:  
O come and sing to Christ the King  
and praise our God on high.

The groaning world is fraught with hope  
to glimpse the promised Son,  
for in the advent of this child  
God's kingdom has begun.  
And those who long to see the dawn  
will walk into his light:  
O come and sing to Christ the King  
And praise our God on high.

Glory to God!  
Glory to God!

Andrew Finden

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Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Immanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Frank Houghton © 1934 OMF International (UK)

## Welcome – Philip Sudell

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high:  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around

Cecil Alexander, Henry John Gauntlett

## Bidding Prayer

Be it this evening our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his mother's arms the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill overall the earth; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember at this time the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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.

## 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.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.

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.



Christina Georgina Rossetti

## Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7 p694

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

### Fullness of grace in man's human frailty

This is the wonder of Jesus  
Laying aside His power and glory  
Humbly He entered our world  
Chose the path of meanest worth  
Scandal of a virgin birth  
Born in a stable cold and rejected  
Here lies the hope of the world

Fullness of grace the love of the Father  
Shown in the face of Jesus  
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity  
Walking the Calvary road  
Christ the holy innocent  
Took our sin and punishment  
Fullness of God despised and rejected  
Crushed for the sins of the world

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for  
Promise of God in Jesus  
Through His obedience we are forgiven  
Op'ning the floodgates of heav'n  
All our hopes and dreams we bring  
Gladly as an offering  
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable  
God's gift in love to the world

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### Reading: Micah 5:2-5 p933

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old,

from ancient times.' <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace

### 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 fears of all the years  
are met in thee 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 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.

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



# Spoken Word – “Instead of You”

Read by Maddie Pell. Words by Phil Knox

## Come and see the inconceivable

And believe the unbelievable  
God has come to dwell with us  
Begotten Son born into Adam's earth  
Promised One fulfilling ancient words  
God has come to dwell with us

*Who could ever know the depths  
Of the myst'ry of Your grace?  
Though our minds can't take it in  
Lord, our hearts are filled with praise*

He will heal the unhealable  
He will save the unsavable  
God has come to dwell with us  
Heaven's joy will drink our bitter cup  
Emptied out as He is lifted up  
God has come to dwell with us  
*Who could ever know the depths...*

Lord, we're lost in overwhelming awe  
At the thought of such amazing love  
God has come, God has come  
God has come to dwell with us

Steve Cook, Vikki Cook

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## Reading: Luke 1:26-38 p1025

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

<sup>34</sup> 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.'

<sup>38</sup> 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

## O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him,

born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*Christ the Lord*



God of God, Light of light,

Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten not created;

*O come, let us adore him,...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,

'Glory to God, in the highest!'

*O come, let us adore him,...*

C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade

## Reading: Luke 2:1-20 p1027

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came

for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### O Come, Christians, wonder!

Be thankful and ponder  
The birth of our saviour and Lord  
For we who were sighing  
And sinning and dying  
In Jesus are fully restored

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

*Glory in the highest Jesus is born*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

*Glory in the highest! Jesus Christ is born*

So lift high your voices  
As heaven rejoices  
To tell of the babe in the hay  
This Jesus the holy  
the poor and the lowly  
we praise him and serve him today  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo...*

Let sister and brother  
Speak peace to each other  
And brother and sister agree  
For love is our story  
To Jesus the glory  
Both now and for ever shall be

*Gloria in excelsis Deo...*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo...*



Michael Perry, Elise Massa  
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### Talk: Philip Sudell

*Christmas JOY?*



Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Listen now to what we say,  
Jesus Christ is born today:  
ox and ass before him bow  
and he is in the manger now!  
Christ is born today;  
Christ is born today.

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Hear the news of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this:  
he has opened heaven's door  
and man is blessed for evermore!  
Christ was born for this;  
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save:  
come at his most gracious call  
to find salvation one and all!  
Christ was born to save;  
Christ was born to save.

J M Neale

## Reading: John 1:1-14 p1063

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
*Hark! The herald angels sing...*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
*Hark! The herald angels sing...*

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

## Final Prayer

Please stay around to chat after the service  
over mulled wine and mince pies through in  
the hall



Organist: John Rattenbury  
Musical director: Simon Upcott  
With thanks to all of the choir and band

There will not be a retiring collection but if  
you want to make a donation please give  
online to the work of London City Mission

<https://www.lcm.org.uk/get-involved/give/christmas/>



# The week ahead

Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am 11am 3:30pm-5pm 6pm	Holy Communion Family Carols Choir Rehearsal Carols by Candlelight
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>		
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>		
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	11pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>		Boxing Day
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>		
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	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 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at 163 Colney Hatch Lane



Use the QR code to register your interest.

# Winter Dates

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



# Christmas Services

