

**The Children's  
Nativity  
Service  
2021**



**The Parish Church of  
St. Wilfrid, Moberley  
19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hymn - Long ago, prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew.  
Come to make all things new;  
Bear his People's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid;  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid;  
Till the time expected  
Nurtured and protected.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes!  
Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!

## **THE INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to our Christingle service, in which we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, and the new life and hope he brings – and also raise money and awareness to support of the work of The Children's Society, who bring light and hope to the lives of vulnerable children and young people across this country. Today we have an opportunity during our Christingle service to celebrate Jesus, the Light, coming into a world of darkness, and to share that light and hope with others.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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 forgiveness from God through Jesus the Saviour of the world:

Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, forgive our unwelcoming hearts. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, Son of God, Servant of humanity, forgive our self-centred lives. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Hope of the nations, forgive our bitter conflicts. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, Saviour of the world, Friend of sinners, forgive our self-righteous attitudes. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

*The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit*

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary who bore your Son.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children who long for your coming.  
Amen**

#### THE COLLECT FOR TODAY

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### THE READINGS

*At the end of each the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn - The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

"For known as blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold:  
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
& Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

## **PRESENTATION BY MESSY CHURCH**

### **· INTRODUCTION**

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
*The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
*The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.  
*The rising of the sun,  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

## **JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM**

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 side until 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.

### **· THE SHEPHERDS RECEIVE GOOD NEWS**

It was on a starry night  
When the hills were bright,  
Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still.  
Then in a cattle shed,  
In a manger bed,  
A boy was born, King of all the world.  
*And all the angels sang for Him,  
The bells of heaven rang for Him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.  
And all the angels sang for Him,  
The bells of heaven rang for Him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.*

Soon the shepherds came that way  
Where the baby lay  
And were kneeling, kneeling by His side.  
And their hearts believed again  
For the peace of men,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for Him,  
The bells of heaven rang for Him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.  
And all the angels sang for Him,  
The bells of heaven rang for Him,  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.*

## · **SHEPHERDS AND WISE MEN GATHER AT THE CRIB**

See him lying on a bed of straw;  
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 of Love again;  
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  
to see the Lord appear to men;  
Just as poor as was the stable then,  
The prince of glory when he came.*

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
Sing the glory of God's special plan;  
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can  
Be the saviour of us all.

*O 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.*

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn - People, look East

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Blessed are you, God of all glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ.

**We worship and adore you.**

He is the heavenly King, born of Mary.

**We worship and adore you.**

He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby.

**We worship and adore you.**

He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes.

**We worship and adore you.**

He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger.

**We worship and adore you.**

Strong in weakness, glorious in humility, to him be all praise and  
glory. We join with all the company of heaven, worshipping you  
and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## OUR PRAYERS

Let us pray for the people of this world who are in need this day as  
we celebrate Christmas.

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon the church all over the world: may  
the Holy Spirit guide us, and grant that we may pursue truth, unity,  
peace and righteousness. We pray especially for the church in  
Britain at the moment, being tested by difficult questions and  
challenged by the threat of disunity. We pray for the work of the  
church here and for our own ministries as we live our lives.

Jesus, Saviour:

**Hear our prayer**

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon all those charged with the responsibility of government, both here in Britain and all over the world, that they might rule in peace, justice and mercy, that people may honour one another and seek the common good.

Jesus, Saviour:

**Hear our prayer**

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon those who will not enjoy Christmas this season, for whom life is a struggle for survival as a result of poverty, famine, disease, war, or the greed of others. We pray, too, for those striving to rebuild their lives after the devastation of natural disasters and of terrorism. Jesus, Saviour:

**Hear our prayer**

Child of Bethlehem, smile upon all who are troubled, anxious or sick in mind, body or spirit and for those who love and care for them. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We remember now anyone known to us who is in special need of our prayers, and name them in a moment of silence ... Jesus, Saviour:

**Hear our prayer**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and pray that the light of Christ may shine eternally upon them and bring them peace. We remember ....

You turn our darkness into light: in your light shall we see light.

Jesus, Saviour:

**Hear our prayer**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,  
hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives.  
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Hymn - Joy to the world

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**