



Family Worship for Christmas Day



Welcome

Minister: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light

All: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has shined *Isaiah Chapter 9*

Minister: In the name of Christ, the light of the world, we welcome you.

Grace, mercy and peace be always with you.

All: And also with you

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, before whom the Magi laid their gifts, and whom humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we celebrate your birth at Bethlehem, and be born in our hearts today. Amen.

The Fifth Candle

The Birth of Jesus on Christmas Day

The Last Candle - The Birth of Christ (White Candle) Jesus is born on Christmas Day

Leader: Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Today is Christmas Day the day on which we celebrate the gift to us of the birth of Jesus and recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the Candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

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 show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle - We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ which we celebrate this Christmas Day.

Luke 2

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. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
(Light the white Christ Candle now.)

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world.

Amen.

Leader: Let us pray

All: Lord Jesus, 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.

Hymn

A messenger named Gabriel
came to the land of Israel
and he proclaimed that Mary's son
was God's messiah, holy one.

*O Jesus Christ, strong Son of God,
once born for us at Bethlehem:
we listen to the angel's song
and worship you for ever.*

Angelic hosts of God most high
with radiant glory fill the sky;
enraptured voices joyful sing
to welcome Christ, the new-born King. (Chorus)

In awesome fear and bitter cold
the shepherds huddle in their fold;
then since the message is for them
they make their way to Bethlehem. (Chorus)

Within the sacred stable-shrine
they see the holy child divine;
the manger stands amidst the straw
and humble folk their God adore. (Chorus)

Since then have passed two thousand years
of human misery and tears;
yet Christ alone can bring release:
he loves us still – the prince of peace. (Chorus)
Tune: O Tannenbaum

Confession

Minister: Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

All: **O Jesus Christ,
risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength and not by the
power of your resurrection.**

**We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as though faithless and unbelieving.
We have lived for this world alone
and doubted our home in heaven.**

**We turn to your mercy as those who were once in
darkness but have now received your light in Jesus
Christ, the light of the world.**

God's forgiveness

Hymns

**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.

***Come and join the celebration, its a very special day:
come and share our jubilation, there's a new king born today!***

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so...

God is with us, round the world the message bring,
He is with us, 'welcome', all the bells on earth are pealing.

Offering

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

Collect Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14 & Luke 2:1-14

Hymn

Chill of the nightfall, lamps in the windows,
letting their light fall, clear on the snow;
bitter December, bids us remember
Christ in the stable, long, long ago.

Silence of midnight, voices of angels,
singing to bid night, yield to the dawn;
darkness is ended, dinners befriended,
where in the stable, Jesus is born.

Splendour of starlight, high on the hillside,
faint is the far light, burning below;
kneeling before him, shepherds adore him,
Christ in the stable, long, long ago.

Glory of daybreak! Sorrows and shadows,
suddenly they break, forth into morn;
sing out and tell now, all shall be well now,
for in the stable, Jesus is born!

Tune: Bunessan

The Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

Hymn

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,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'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
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all 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;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'



Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

Hymn

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:

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our hearts' oblations;

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

Final Prayer

God our Father, whose word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Christ the Lord.

The 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 yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Thank you to everybody
who has helped prepare our
churches and assisted with
our worship over Christmas.

