**At Home Saturday 25th of December 2021 “It’s Christmas!”**

Please find a space and light a candle.

In our worship over this Christmas Weekend let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

[O come all ye faithful - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8dgI4-bVPU)

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this time of worship knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. Amen

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

Call to Confession

Although God is the source of our joy,
our sin often hinders our joy and the joy of others.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Confession

**Gracious God,
it was with joy that you brought us into being.
You created the world and called it good.
And yet we have done so much to quell that goodness:
we have fought with one another and failed to live in peace;
we have shut out the stranger and disparaged the immigrant;
we have ignored the needy and judged the poor;
we have fallen short of your command to be the Beloved Community.
Forgive us, Merciful God, and bring us back to the joy we find in you.
This we pray in your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

Gracious God with gratitude and gladness we hear your promise of liberation: that in Christ we are forgiven and set free, and restored to serve you. Thanks be to you, Living God! **Amen.**

**Collect,**

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.

**Amen.**

**2**In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**All went to their own towns to be registered. **4**Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5**He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**The Shepherds and the Angels**

**8**In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A1+%E2%80%93+14&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24977a)] the Lord. **12**This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A1+%E2%80%93+14&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24979b)] praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
    and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

**Reflection**

As we look at our candle….a little light shining….so we are reminded of Jesus who came to earth as a baby……God coming close to us on the first Christmas so that we might come close to Him. PAUSE

As we feel the warmth of the flame we are reminded that Jesus came because God the Father loves us and we are precious to Him. PAUSE

As we look at the light of the flame we are reminded that Jesus came to deal with the darkness of our sin by dying for us on a cross, but then rising from the dead three days later. PAUSE

As we turn to Jesus, believing and trusting in Him; so we receive His gift of becoming a child of God and the Holy Spirit comes to live within us….God’s light now lives in us. PAUSE spend a moment reading through

**Eleanor Farjoen’s**

The Shepherd and the King,
The Angel and the Ass,
They heard Sweet Mary sing,
When her joy was come to pass;
They heard Sweet Mary sing
To the Baby on her knee.
Sing again Sweet Mary,
And we will sing with thee!

Earth, bear a berry! Heaven, bear a light!
Man, make you merry On Christmas Night.

The Oxen in the stall,
The Sheep upon the hill,
They are waking all
To hear Sweet Mary still.
The Baby is a Child,
And the Child is running free.
Sing again Sweet Mary,
And we will sing with thee!

Earth, bear a berry! Heaven, bear a light!
Man, make you merry On Christmas Night.

The People in the land,
So many million strong,
All silently do stand
To hear Sweet Mary's song.
The Child He is a man,
And the man hangs on a tree.
Sing again Sweet Mary,
And we will sing with thee!

Earth, bear a berry! Heaven, bear a light!
Man, make you merry On Christmas Night.

The Stars that are so old,
The Grass that is so young,
They listen in the cold
To hear Sweet Mary's Tongue.
The Man's the Son of God,
And in heaven walketh He.
Sing again Sweet Mary,
And we will sing with thee!

Earth, bear a berry! Heaven, bear a light!
Man, make you merry On Christmas Night.

Thank you Jesus that You came close so that we might live in close relationship with You. Amen. ‘

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkUGOya66Bo**

**Intercessions**

The world says, ‘You can never have enough money’; but we say,
**‘Let’s share. Let’s dare to be different.’**
The world says, ‘You can never have too many clothes’; but we say,
**‘Let’s share. Let’s dare to be different.’**
The world says, ‘Enough is never really enough’; but we say,
**‘Let’s share. Let’s dare to be different.’**
In Jesus’ name,
**‘Let’s share. Let’s dare to be different.’
Amen.**

Let us pray to God, saying:
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

Our denominations have a growing commitment to human rights.
Help us, Gracious God, to proclaim your gospel that tells us
“all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

God of Compassion,
your scripture tells us today
that those of us with much have much to give in your name. Luke 3:11
Where those of us have too much,
help us have generous hearts to give to those who have too little.
In this season of expectation,
help us bear the good fruit that you call us to bear. Luke 3:9
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

God of Hope,
we pray that you will make joy known in difficult places this season:
in places of warfare,
in places of pain, in places of despair,
in places of sickness,
in places of hunger,
in places of hopelessness.
Help us share the joy we find in you!
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

God of Harmony,
this year has seen so much division.
Help us, in this season of generosity and compassion,
to draw near to one another.
When fear reigns, we tend to circle our wagons and shut others out.
But when hope reigns, we let down our guard
and open ourselves up to the possibility of love and creation.
Help us draw near to one another.
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

God of Healing,
we pray that you would lift up those among you that need joy,
those we lift up before you silently…
God of Joy, **draw near to us.**

**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

[Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (Tune: Mendelssohn - 3vv) [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IGP68i3JvU)

**Please extinguish your CANDLE**

**Lord, help us to go into the world in peace;
to be of good courage; to hold fast to that which is good;
to strengthen the fainthearted;
to support the weak; to honour everyone;
and to love and serve the Lord. Be within us and among us,
and remain with us always.
Amen.**