

CAROL SERVICE

The 3rd Sunday of Advent



13th December 2020

*“The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned”*

Isaiah, Chapter 9, Verse 2

WELCOME

Revd. Tim Garrett

The Lighting of the advent candles

The Bidding Prayer.

CAROL

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

1st Reading - Genesis 3 (1-15)

Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’² The woman said to the snake, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”⁴ ‘You will not certainly die,’ the snake said to the woman.⁵ ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’

¹⁰He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’¹¹ And he said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?’¹² The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’

The woman said, ‘The snake deceived me, and I ate.’¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the snake, ‘Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’

CAROL

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story -
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you;
Christ the babe was born for you!

from the Polish, E M G Reed (1885-1933)

2nd Reading - Isaiah 9 (2-7)

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵ Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.⁷ 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

CAROL

MARY, DID YOU KNOW

that your baby boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?

The child that you delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak he praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?

The sleeping child you're holding is the great, I AM

3rd Reading - Matthew I (18-25)

¹⁸This 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. ¹⁹Joseph 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.

²⁰But 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.

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All 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").

²⁴Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

CAROL

O HOLY NIGHT, THE STARS ARE BRIGHTLY SHINING

It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

'Til 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

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 we

Let all within us Praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord; Let ever, ever praise we!

Noel, Noel; O night, o night divine

Noel, Noel; O night, o night divine

Noel, Noel; O night, o night divine

4th Reading - John I (1-14)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

*¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The 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.*

THE SERMON

5th Reading - Hebrews I (1-5)

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

PRAYERS

ending with the Lord's Prayer

CAROL

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, (x3) Christ the Lord.

God of God,

Light of Light,

Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Very God,

Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

Glory to God

In the highest:

THE FINAL BLESSING

CHOIR CAROL

"Christmas is Coming"

Comfort and Joy



We invite you to sign up for daily emails or the app at www.churchofengland.org/comfortandjoy to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Each one includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and an action to reflect on.



Christmas is NOT cancelled this year - but it will be different! We will be offering services both **In Church** and **Online** so that we can still gather together this Christmas:

Sunday 29 th November	10am	Holy Communion with the Advent Antiphons (Online) <i>7 Short chants each highlighting a different facet of Christ</i>
Sunday 6 th December	10am	Christingle Service (Online)
Sunday 13 th December	10am	The Carol Service - Lessons & Carols (Online) <i>with the Trinity Singers</i>
Sunday 20 th December	10am	A Christ-mess Story with Nat Garrett (Online)
Christmas Eve	1-4pm	A Creative Telling of the Christmas Story (In Church) Explore the Christmas story with your family through arts and crafts (children very welcome to dress up!). Due to COVID restrictions, booking is essential for an hour slot—see below
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Family Communion (In Church) <i>booking is essential</i>

For the services **In Church** booking is essential—for booking details and to access our **Online** services please visit www.httchurch.org/christmas

Please help if you can: www.httchurch.org/giving

Coming in 2021: The Alpha Course a weekly course starting on **Tuesday 12 January** for anyone with questions about the meaning of life. Please visit www.httchurch.org/alpha to join and for more information.



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