

*Candlelight Service*  
*Christmas Eve*



*Carols & Communion*

*Surfcoast Anglican Parish*

Year B

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people;  
to you is born this night, in the city of David, a Saviour  
**who is the Messiah, the Lord**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem - TiS 316

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893); English trad. arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in your dark streets shining the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth;
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in
4. 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 their great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall name him 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 you his pardon and peace, now and for ever **Amen**

Let us pray

Good and gracious God, who gave us your Son, the Lord of the Universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes; the Saviour of all, lying in a manger: on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love.

Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

## The Ministry of the Word

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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. (Isaiah 9.2-7 NIV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

We say the verses of Psalm 96 alternately:

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
tell out his salvation from day to day**

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised**

Honour and majesty are before him; power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

**Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength**

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him**

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king; for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

**With righteousness he will judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth**

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus:

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14 NLT)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

# Silent Night, Holy Night - 311

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820-85); Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

1. Silent night, holy night.

All is calm, all is bright,  
round the virgin mother and child;  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace -  
sleep in heavenly peace

2. 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

3. Silent night, holy night.

Wondrous star, lend your light.  
With the angels let us sing:  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, our Saviour is born -  
Christ, our Saviour is born

## *Stand for the Gospel reading*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." (Luke 2.1-14 NLT)

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon**

## Prayers

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

Let us pray for the world and for the Church

Wonderful Counsellor, your glory burst through the heavens to amaze the shepherds with news of your birth. Bring us to kneel in adoration and worship the mystery of the Incarnation. May your Church proclaim your salvation from day to day.

God of grace

**We behold your glory**

Mighty God, you judge with equity and your power stoops to touch our humanity. Inspire the rulers of the nations with this humility and concern for everyone. Bring harmony and dignity to all peoples.

God of grace

**We behold your glory**

Everlasting Father, your name is exulted in all generations. Bring the sounds of rejoicing and laughter to our homes, especially to families experiencing strife or sadness. Wrap your children in tenderness and love. God of grace

**We behold your glory**

Prince of Peace, in your freedom we thrive and flourish. Be with all who are sick, troubled or distressed, especially those who are on our hearts at this time. Bless us all with your godly hope.

God of grace

**We behold your glory**



To us a child is born and he brings redemption for all who trust in him. Hear our prayer for all who rest in your peace, especially for loved ones whom we miss at this time. May your light dawn upon us with joy.

God of grace

**We behold your glory**

These and all our prayers we offer up through your Incarnate Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord

**Amen**

## Greeting of Peace

*Stand for the greeting of peace*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you      **And also with you**

*During the next hymn the collection is taken up  
We voluntarily give financially, and through our time and skills.*

*This is an act of worship to God,  
it contributes to the work of the parish,  
provides aid and supports mission organisations*

*If you are visiting us today, there is no obligation to give*

# Offertory Hymn - It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Edmund H Sears (1849); Tune. Carol

1. It came upon a midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth,  
good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing

2. Still through the cloven skies  
they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing

3. The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoicèd much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding,  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this blessèd babe to find:

4. And ye,  
beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad  
and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

5. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world  
send back the song  
which now the angels sing

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom

**Blessed be God for ever**

## The Eucharist

*You are welcome to respond to God's invitation, or to pray quietly in your seat*

*Children are welcome to receive a blessing or communion*

*according to the usual practice in their faith community*

*We use fortified wine and wafers, gluten free if requested. Hold the wafer and*

*we will serve a few drops of wine onto the wafer*

*For a blessing, keep your hands down*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

With all our hearts we praise you, faithful God. In the beginning, you called light to shine in darkness, you made living things to grow and flourish and you created human beings in your image.

You chose us in love, guided us by your presence and blessed us with your holy law. Yet we chose our own sinful ways. We broke your commandments, persecuted your prophets, forgot your wisdom and, time after time, refused to answer your call.

So you spoke an eternal word in a human voice in Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God. He called and people followed, leaving every other loyalty. He set us free to praise your holy name.

But hatred and violence shouted Jesus down. Betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross, he laid down his life for the world he loved, and broke the chains of evil and death. Then you turned our sorrow into joy. On the third day you raised him up to lead your people into life.

So we praise you, holy God, with angels and archangels and all your faithful people, 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**

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his friends to share a meal and wash their feet, teaching one more lesson of love.

He took bread and blessed you and broke it. He gave it to them and said: "Take this and eat it. This is my body."

He took a cup of wine and blessed you and gave it to them. He said: "Take this and drink it. This is my blood, sealing God's promise to forgive your sins. Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me."

As we share these holy gifts, we remember the Lord Jesus: For the love you taught us, the sacrifice you made for us and the hope you give us, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying you destroyed our death**

**Rising, you restored our life**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory**

And now, faithful God, send us your Spirit to feed us with the body and the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Make us one body in Christ. Send us as your messengers in the world and fill us with energy, courage and love. Now to you, most holy God, through Christ your Son and in the Spirit's power, we bring our worship and our songs of praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

**for we all share in the one bread**

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving

*You are welcome to respond to God's invitation,  
or may wish to pray quietly in your seat*

*Children are welcome to receive a blessing or communion  
according to the usual practice in their faith community*

*We use fortified wine and wafers, gluten free if requested. Hold the wafer and  
we will serve a few drops of wine onto the wafer*

*To receive only a blessing,  
keep your hands down and bow your head*

### **After Communion**

Let us pray. God of heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with this holy food. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people

**Father, we offer ourselves to you**

**as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory**

### **The Blessing**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,

fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you and those whom you love, now and always

**Amen**

## O Come, All Ye Faithful - TiS 304

John Frances Wade (1711-1786) Music: Adeste Fideles, att J F Wade

1. 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.*
2. God of God, Light of light, lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, be-gotten not created: O come ...
3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come ...
4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; O come ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*The communities of Surfcoast Anglican Parish  
wish you a blessed Christmas season  
Be mindful on the road, on the beach and in the bush,  
and extend God's peace and wellbeing to all you encounter.  
Thank you for sharing in this service with us*

*Image Adoration of the Shepherd Saint Clotilde Except where otherwise noted, all hymns from Together in Song.  
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