

Immanuel, 27th December 2020

Please note: On occasions there may be variations in the number of verses and some of the words sung in the hymns and carols depending on the recording used

Welcome and Notices - Lighting of the Church Christ Candle

Call to Worship: Jesus said, "I have come that you may have LIFE in all abundance." So let us together worship the Living, Loving God revealed to us in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Carol: 'Once in Royal David's City' (Carols from the Cathedral Track 1)

Once in Royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed. Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ that little child.	For he is our childhood's patten Day by day like us He grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew, And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.
He came down to earth from Heaven, Who is God and Lord of all. And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall. With the poor and mean and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour Holy.	And our eyes at last shall see Him Through His own redeeming love, For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in Heaven above; And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
And through all His wondrous childhood, He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms He lay. Christian children all should be, Mild, obedient, good as He.	Not in that poor, lowly stable, With the oxen standing by, We shall see Him; but in Heaven, Set at God's right hand on high, When, like stars, His children crowned All in white, shall wait around.
	<i>Cecil Frances Alexander</i>

Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Bible Reading: Luke 2: 15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

Carol: 'Good King Wenceslas' (Canterbury Carols Track 10)

<p>Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen, When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even; Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel, When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.</p> <p>"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling, Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?" "Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain; Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."</p> <p>"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither: Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither." Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together; Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.</p>	<p>"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger; Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer." "Mark my footsteps, good my page. Tread thou in them boldly Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."</p> <p>In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted; Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.</p> <p><i>John Mason Neale</i></p>
--	---

Pause for thought

Carol: 'In the bleak mid-winter'. (John Rutter Christmas Album Track 13)

<p>In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.</p> <p>Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ</p>	<p>Enough for Him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful of hay; Enough for Him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.</p> <p>What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.</p> <p><i>Christina Rossetti</i></p>
---	--

Poem: 'Christmas Bells' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Read by Steve Brain

We stand to Bless the Offering and then share the words of The Grace.

Prayers:

Carol: 'The Holly and the Ivy' (John Rutter Christmas Album Track 20)

<p>The holly and the ivy When they are both full grown Of all trees that are in the wood The holly bears the crown</p> <p>Refrain <i>O, the rising of the sun And the running of the deer The playing of the merry organ Sweet singing in the choir</i></p> <p>The holly bears a blossom As white as any flow'r And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our dear Saviour</p> <p>The holly bears a berry As red as any blood And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do poor sinners good</p>	<p>The holly bears a prickle As sharp as any thorn And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn</p> <p>The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to redeem us all</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Traditional</i></p>
--	---

Blessing: May God be with you as you seek to do his will

May Christ be with you to support you in all things

And may the Holy Spirit Dwell within you

to encourage and guide your journeyings.

This Christmastide and always. Amen.

Closing Music: 'I saw three Ships'. (John Rutter Christmas Album Track 14)