

Service for Christmas Day



St Laurence Church, Downton

25 December 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God,
and now we see you as a new-born child.

God with us,
kindle your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
we might banish the shadows of this world,
we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:
Emmanuel is in this world,
God is with us, now and evermore. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: *O come all ye faithful*

(St Martin's Voices)

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;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Translated from the Latin (18th century)
by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)*

Advent Wreath:

Jesus' love is for us all.
Now we're going to make it shine
The light it gives us is a sign

We light the final candle on our Advent Wreath.

Candle, candle burning bright
Jesus is the world's true light.
Candle, candle standing tall

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;
Born a child, you are one with us.
Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David;
Born to rule, you reign in our hearts.
Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of man;
Born to save, you are the light of the world.
Glory to God in the highest.

God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness see 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.**

Praise and Prayer:

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia!

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given. Alleluia!

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
We worship and adore him. Alleluia!

We come to adore you, Jesus.
On bended knee, with hopeful heart,
and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe.
The gentleness of your gaze
draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond,
and in that place of falling into joy
we yield all that we are to you.

And we pray.
For those who are broken,
those who seek,
the trembling and the rumbling tummies,
the haggard spirits and the ragged lives.
For those who cling to the last best thing,
and those whose hearts pine for love.

Bless us, O Lord whom we adore,
and turn our faces ever toward you.
For peace, for mercy,
for the sake of all that is holy.
We come to adore you, O Christ. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-14

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Carol: *Angels we have heard on high (Oxford Choir)*

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Light of ages,
be born in our hearts.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we have beheld his glory.

John 1:14

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Carol: Joy to the world
(*St Martin's Voices*)