



Worship for Christmas Day 2020

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our Christmas day worship. Welcome if you are joining us in church, on Zoom or at home, it is lovely to have you with us as gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. (For those following at home I have included here the music that will be played in church this Christmas day as well as indicating where would be a good place to sing a carol. I know that we all have a different favourite carols so instead of choosing carols of this service I have prepared a separate sheet with some suggested carols with links to versions on YouTube and will leave you to decide which carols you would like to sing at home.) So, let us take a moment to be still in the presence of our generous God as we prepare for worship this morning.

Music: Today is the saviour's day by rend collective

Call to worship

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

(Carol)

A child is born— a child to save us. **We share the news with great joy.**
A child is born, a child to challenge us. **We share the news with great joy.**
A child is born, a child for the world. **We share the news with great joy.**

Prayers of Penitence

As family we come with Mary and Joseph before the new-born Christ child. We remember that we are sometimes greedy, sometimes selfish, sometimes hurtful, and we come to say sorry.

Jesus you came in poverty, but we forget to be thankful for that we have.
Forgive us we pray. **Lord forgive us.**

Jesus, you surprised the world by your coming, but we make it routine, year after year.
Forgive us we pray. **Lord forgive us.**

Jesus, you made room for shepherds and strangers, but we often turn away from those who are different.
Forgive us we pray. **Lord forgive us.**

Jesus, you came with a message of peace, but we are deaf to hear and lazy to change.
Forgive us we pray. **Lord forgive us.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect for Christmas day

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.**

Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Action Song

During advent we have held story with families on a Sunday afternoon. Each week we have heard a Christmas story from the viewpoint of a different character and have sung a verse of this song. Then at our special Christmas Eve Storytime we sung the whole song and would like to share it with you on this Christmas day. The tune is the 'Pizza Hut'. Here is a link to the tune on YouTube.

A stable door, A stable door A baby in a manger and a stable door
A stable door, A stable door A baby in a manger and a stable door
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
A baby in a manger and a stable door.
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
A baby in a manger and a stable door.

The angels sing, the angels sing Halos shining brightly as the angels sing.
The angels sing, the angels sing Halos shining brightly as the angels sing.
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Halos shining brightly as the angels sing.
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Halos shining brightly as the angels sing.

A woolly sheep, a woolly sheep Shepherds keeping watch and a woolly sheep
A woolly sheep, a woolly sheep Shepherds keeping watch and a woolly sheep
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Shepherds keeping watch and a woolly sheep
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Shepherds keeping watch and a woolly sheep

A twinkling star, a twinkling star, Kings on camels and a twinkling star
A twinkling star, a twinkling star, Kings on camels and a twinkling star
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Kings on camels and a twinkling star
IT'S CHRISTMAS! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
Kings on camels and a twinkling star

(Carol)

Luke 2: 1-20 or An interactive Christmas Story

An interactive Christmas Story by Bob Hartman

ANGEL – say good news

BABY – pretend to rock a baby in your arms

SHEPHERDS – make an amazed shocked face

BETHLEHEM – Say no room

SHEEP – go baa

This is the story of the first Christmas. A long time ago, a girl called Mary and a man named Joseph were travelling to a small town called **Bethlehem**. Joseph lived in Nazareth, but his family lived in **Bethlehem**. A new leader named Caesar order everyone to go back to their hometown. He wanted to count all the people in his kingdom. So, Mary

and Joseph went to **Bethlehem**. Mary was going to have her **baby** soon. When they arrived in **Bethlehem**, they looked for a safe place to sleep, but all the inns were full. Finally, a man was able to help them. He said, "I do not have any rooms left, but you are welcome to sleep in the stable." Joseph made a warm place for Mary to rest. While they were there, little **baby** Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and gently laid him in a manger.

The **ANGEL** Gabriel had an important Christmas job to do. He had to tell somebody that the **BABY**, Jesus, had been born. He could have told a powerful somebody – like the king. He could have told a religious somebody – like the high priest. He could have told a wealthy somebody – like the richest man in **BETHLEHEM**. But instead, the **ANGEL** Gabriel told the **SHEPHERDS** – a plain and ordinary somebodies. Somebodies like you and me.

The **SHEPHERDS** were watching their **SHEEP**, out on a hillside. It was late. It was dark. And some of them just wanted to drop off to sleep. And that's when the **ANGEL** Gabriel appeared – bright and shiny, glowing and gold – just as he had appeared to Mary. "Don't be afraid!" **ANGEL** Gabriel said to the **SHEPHERD**, and he smiled when he realized how silly that sounded. Of course they were afraid!. Who wouldn't be? The **SHEPHERDS** had never seen an **ANGEL** before. And so they were trembling and shaking, just like frightened **SHEEP**. "I have good news for you" Gabriel explained. "God has sent someone very special, to bring joy to this dark world. And tonight that someone has been born – not far from here, in **BETHLEHEM**! Go, and you will find him, a **BABY** bundled up tight and lying in a manger" And then suddenly the **ANGEL** Gabriel was not alone. As the **SHEPHERDS** watched the sky was filled with **ANGELS** singing "Glory to God in heaven, and peace to men on earth! And when the **ANGELS** had finished, they disappeared, leaving the **SHEPHERDS** alone. The **SHEPHERDS** leapt to their feet and rushed off to **BETHLEHEM** leaving their **SHEEP** behind. They found Mary and Joseph, and the **BABY** in the manger.

And when they described what they had seen – to the innkeeper and his wife and anyone else who would listen – everyone wondered and was amazed. Then, singing and laughing, the **SHEPHERDS** went back to the hills and their **SHEEP**. But the **SHEPHERDS**, they kept their eyes trained on the sky, just in case another bright flock of **ANGELS** should appear!

Talk

There are two options for the talk today. If you have not yet listened to or read my Christmas sermon who might like to do that now.

Alternatively, you may wish to reflect on the following story that we will be sharing in church on Christmas morning. Edmund the dog (a cuddle toy) will be joining me in church and at the appropriate points in the service he, as well as some members of the congregation, will be wearing the appropriate headdresses.

Edmund the Dog - a Christmas day talk

Written by Sandra Miller

This is a story about Edmund the dog and he is going to help us today to think about presents. Like all of us today Edmund doesn't just want to get presents, he's just as excited about giving presents and especially giving a present to Jesus. He wants to give Jesus the best present he can, so he decided to join the angels so he can sing a fantastic song of praise, letting everyone know the good news. There is just one problem: he's a dog, he can't sing, he only howls. So, he can't be an angel. Never mind he thinks, I can be a shepherd. I can go with them to visit Jesus. There is just one problem: he's a dog. He loves sheep, chasing them, scaring them. So, he can't be a shepherd. Never mind he thinks, I can be a king. I can carry some gold coins with me and make Jesus feel really special. There is just one problem, he is a dog. And he does not have any hands to carry the coins.

So he can't be a king, or a shepherd, or an angel. But he did so want to take a present to Jesus. With his head and tail down he slid quietly into the stable where Jesus lay. He wriggled past all the people right up to the manger. He gave a big doggy sigh and then did what dogs do best of all. He curled up at the foot of the manger to help keep the baby warm and make him feel safe and special. That's the best gift of all: the gift of himself, just being who we are and loving God. That's what each of us can bring Jesus today: ourselves, weather we are old and bring our memories and our wisdom, or young and bring our energy and excitement, or even a baby with all our dreams. It is like that famous carol which goes.

What can I bring him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man I would play my part
Yet what I can I give him - Give my heart

Take a moment now to offer you heart, yourself to God this Christmas.

The Creed

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and 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**

(Carol)

Music:

Prayers

I have made a video of the prayers .

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus whose birth we celebrate today. Thank you for your presence in our lives, for your mercy and love. Help us all to share the gifts we have, to have generous hearts, and the courage to shine out your love so all people may know your unconditional love for them. The shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Guide and strengthen your church as we seek to share the good news of Jesus birth in words and deeds. Holy God. **Hear our prayer**

Generous God there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. May the world work together to protect the environment and to build a better world for all people, especially the vulnerable. The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' We pray today that your peace will touch the lives of people throughout the world, especially those in difficult situations of violence, injustice, and uncertainty. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Inspire with your wisdom and compassion all those who lead. Holy God. **Hear our prayer**

Generous God, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Hold in your hand all who are in pain, or distress and all those who are fearful and anxious. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world, remembering especially all those who are sick. In a moment of silence, we name before you any know to us. *Silence*. Surround them with your comfort and peace and make us channels of your compassion and kindness. Holy God. **Hear our prayer**

Generous God, wise men followed the star to find the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Surround with your love all those who are separated from their families and friends this Christmas and all those who are lonely. We pray for our local communities, each home and individual, may our common life be shaped by kindness, understanding and friendship. Holy God. **Hear our prayer**

Generous God heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death. We give you thanks for the love their shared and for all that they meant to their families and friends. Bring comfort and hope to all those who are grieving at this time. Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Father, angels, and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in the fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

The Peace

Light looked down and saw darkness '**I will go there' said the light**

Peace looked down and saw war '**I will go there' said peace**

Love looked down and saw hatred '**I will go there' said Love**

So the, the Lord of light, the Prince of Peace, the king of Love, come down and crept in beside us. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

I know that we are not together physically today and not able to share the peace in our normal way. However, this does not mean that we are not able to share the peace. Bring to mind members of our church family and as you do wish them God's peace. "..... (the name of a member of our church family) God's peace be with you.

(Carol)

Music

We go out

Music:

We carry the light of hope. **And share it with a waiting world.**

We carry the word of life. **And share it with a waiting world.**

We carry God's heart of love. **And share it with a waiting world.**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christians time and always; And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God**

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, Church House publishing 2006, Resourcing Christmas, Jumping Fish and Festivals Together: Creating all-age worship throughout the year by Sandra Millar SPCK 2012