



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, 24 December 2017

## Everyone is welcome in Orchardhill.

Before our service begins at 10.30am, you're free to have a tea or coffee and browse through what's happening. Feel free to sit wherever you wish.

Join us, too, for drinks and chat after the service.

To find out more about anything in Orchardhill, just ask someone or visit [www.orchardhill.org.uk](http://www.orchardhill.org.uk)

**O**nce 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 her little child.

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.

**H**ail to the Lord's Anointed  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes, with succour speedy,  
to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through His own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and Helpless  
is our Lord in Heaven above;  
and He leads His children on  
to the place where He is gone.

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;  
where His children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*Cecil France Alexander (1818-1895) ccli licence 20979*

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

For him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The mountain dews shall nourish  
a seed, in weakness down,  
whose fruit shall spread and flourish  
and shake like Lebanon.

**T**herefore the redeemed of the Lord shall  
return,  
and come with singing unto Zion,  
and everlasting joy shall be upon their head.

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall  
return,  
and come with singing unto Zion,  
and everlasting joy shall be upon their head.

**W**hen out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with head held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day,  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.  
Be blest; prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love

**I**n 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.

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.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
that name to us is Love.

*James Montgomery (1771-1854) ccli licence 20979*

They shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.  
Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall  
return,  
and come with singing unto Zion,  
and everlasting joy shall be upon their head.

*Ruth Lake © 1972 Scripture in Song/Integrity Music/ Kingsway's Thankyou Music  
ccli licence 20979*

the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,  
the world turned upside down,  
and in strength of woman's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call,  
'Be blest; prepare the way!'

*Kathryn Galloway (b1952) ccli licence 20979*

Angels and archangels may have gathered  
there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss

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, give  
my heart.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) ccli licence 20979*

**W**hile humble shepherds watched their  
flocks,  
in Bethlehem's plains by night  
an angel sent from heaven appeared  
and filled the plains with light.

'Fear not,' he said - for sudden dread  
had seized their troubled mind -  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.'

'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line,  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.  
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God;  
and thus addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
goodwill is shown from heaven above  
and never more shall cease!'

*Scottish Paraphrases, 1781 St Luke 2: 8-14 ccli licence 20979*

### **Scripture Isaiah 61**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

'For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.'

## **Intimations**

**Christmas Eve in the early evening** You're welcome along at 6pm tonight for a service focused very much on children. Everyone's invited to wear a onesie (if you're not sure what this is, ask someone younger) and, ideally, one with a (possible tentative) connection to Christmas. You'll want to wear some clothes underneath, and dressing gowns are also permitted! Our service with singing, story and sharing lasts just under an hour.

**Christmas Eve Watchnight service** Our watchnight service starts at 11.15 with choral singing, readings and carols as we approach Christmas Day, and is preceded by mulled wine and nibbles in the south transept from 10.45.

**Christmas Day service** We meet at 10am for worship.

**Church Office** will reopen on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Orchardhill Record** The Orchardhill Record, as previously advised, will not be published in January. The next edition will be in February, the deadline for which will be Sunday 14 January.

**Soundwaves** A big thank you to everyone who came to Soundwaves Christmas Celebration on Sunday evening. The grand total of £168.02 was raised from the collection and this will be sent to CHAS (Robin House). Soundwaves would like to thank you for your support and generosity and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Tree of Kindness Thank you** Your response has exceeded all expectations and because of your generosity and kindness over 300 children living in poverty will receive a gift this Christmas. You might think it was a small thing to do but YOU have made a big difference in another person's life.

*Wishing you a very*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



*..... from all the office staff*