

Sunday 21 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

All are welcome

What Child IS This

Call to Worship

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Readers 1 & 2 then congregation sings;

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Prayer of Invocation

[unison]

Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with a steadfast love that casts out fear.
Open up our hearts to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us how to be with and for one another
in ways that add to the flourishing of all
creation.

We pray in the name of the Child,
the Love Enthroned in our hearts and lives.

Amen.

Hark the Herald Angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled"

Joyful, all ye nations rise

Join the triumph of the skies

With angelic hosts proclaim:

"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored

Christ the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come

Offspring of a Virgin's womb

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell

Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings

Ris'n with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by

Born that man no more may die

Born to raise the sons of earth

Born to give them second birth

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

ELLC 1988

Hymn *Calypso Carol*

See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore —
the Prince of glory is his name.

Refrain:

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came!*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.

Mine are riches, from your poverty;
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Be near us, Lord Jesus; we ask Thee to
stay
close by us forever, and love us, we
pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care,
and make earth a heaven, where all
have a share.

Hymn While Shepherds Watch their flock by night

While shepherds watched their flocks by
night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty 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 simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from
highest heaven begin and never cease!

All age time

Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon

Hymn CMP 749 What Child is this

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet,
While shepherds watch are
keeping?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
*This, this is Christ, the King,
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Intimations Offering Prayers of intercession & Dedication

Oh Come all ye faithful

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.

True God of True God, Light from Light eternal

Humbly, He entered the virgin's womb

Son of the Father, 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, glory 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.

Benediction

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and
angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him
laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!
Amen**