



Sunday 15 December
3rd Sunday in Advent

All are welcome

THE CANDLE OF JOY

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth

the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When joy holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.

The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more joy.

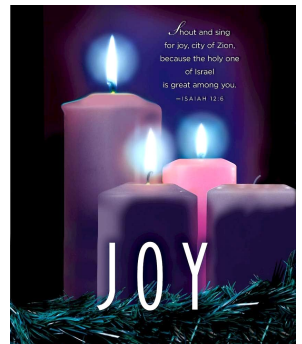
Life can be so complicated and filled with distractions.

We are a people who simply want Good News.

We need a marker on the journey to tell us to stop and notice the wonder of the moments along the way.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When joy holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.



HYMN CH4 305

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.

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.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worshipped night
and day,
a breast full of milk,
and a manger full of hay;
enough for Him, whom angels, fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.

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 ccli licence 20979

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN CH4 324

Angels, from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Wise men, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Though an infant now we view Him,
He will share His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
James Montgomery ccli licence 20979

ALL AGE TIME

HYMN CH4 314

Child in the manger,

infant of Mary;
outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
all our demerits
on Him fall.

Once the most holy
Child of salvation
gently and lowly
lived below;
now, as our glorious
mighty Redeemer,
see Him victorious
o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him,
infant of wonder;
angels behold Him
on His throne;
worthy our Saviour
of all their praises;
happy for ever
are His own.

Mary Macdonald ccli licence 20979

SCRIPTURE Romans 15:12-13

And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

SERMON

HYMN CH4 273

O come, O come Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
shall come to Thee,
O Israel.*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

HYMN CH4 286

Tell out, my soul,

the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of His word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of His name:
make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of His might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,
the glories of His word:
firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

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BENEDICTION

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

descend to us we pray, cast out our fear,
and draw us near; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad
tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord
Emmanuel.

We're on our way
We're on our way
Dream of the day
When peace holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.