



Sunday 22 December
4th Sunday in Advent

All are welcome

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

**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 love 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 love.

So many are in need of grace, in need of loving acceptance.

We are a people who can bring Good News.

Stories of generosity are markers and signs that goodness is the nature of God.

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 love holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.**



PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

NATIVITY

HYMN CH4 306

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God
In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born for our salvation,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
John Francis Wade (1711 - 1786) ccli licence 20979

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 love holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.