



AT HOME SERVICE

Christmas Day 2025

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:10-11)

HYMN STF - 330

1] Joy to the world! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

3] He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

2] Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

PRAYER

Emmanuel, God is with us!
The Lord is King! Let earth rejoice!
A babe was born in Bethlehem, homeless, stateless, laid in a manger surrounded by love unconditional.
Jesus the Christ Child born for each one of us.
Emmanuel, God is with us! AMEN

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING - John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh

or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN - STF 196

*Come and join the celebration,
It's a very special day;
Come and share our jubilation,
There's a new King born today!*

2] Wise men journey,
Led to worship by a star,
Kneel in homage,
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

1] See the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem;
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God who lay before them.

3] 'God is with us,'
'round the world the message bring;
He is with us,
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing.

Valerie Collison (b.1933)

Reflection

Happy Christmas !!! Those words that perhaps you have heard many times in the past month, and offered to others, often with the addition of "and a happy new year". Words that are heard on the radio, the TV and written in many of the cards we receive during the Christmas season.

I hope and prayer that they are words that are filled with the Hope of Jesus and not just empty words that we are obliged to say out of tradition and convention.

To share Happy Christmas with someone is to recognize the amazing gift of Jesus Christ to the world. "Be Happy because God came down to earth as a little child, and you are blessed"...it's a bit longer than Happy Christmas, but it is the true meaning behind those two little words. As the angels said to those shepherds all those years ago:

Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:10-11)

They are words that echo across the centuries. As humanity, we repeat these words every year...and yet fear still remains among many people. The angels were proclaiming a great change to the world. A world, then as is now, that has many people living in fear of so many things in their lives, a fear that can be replaced by joy in the knowledge of the great hope that is Jesus.

I'm not saying that somehow, miraculously, that Jesus has obliterated all the fear and wrong in this world...that would be silly...you only have to look at the news to know that is not true...however, I have spoken to so many people over the years that understood the nature of God, revealed in Jesus, and it is their faith in Jesus that has provide the resilience to live with such difficulties and to live in the hope of that which is to come.

The power of the message of Christmas should never be understated or underestimated. It should be proclaimed loudly for all to hear. We replicate the heavenly choirs in our world today and sing the praises of Jesus at the tops of our voices....JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME !

Prayers

On this Christmas Day
We praise you God for the greatest gift
You bestowed on all creation.

You gave of yourself in the person of Jesus
The unfathomable incarnation
The Spirit of God made flesh.

The promised babe that became the saviour of all.
For this we thank you.

Today we also remember those for whom salvation
And redemption can seem so far away.
Those struggling with bereavement, loneliness and pain

Blessed God bring your presence and comfort to those we name

[pause to remember those you know]

God of peace we bring before you the uncertainty of today's world.
Rest upon each nation and each leader on our world
That peace may reign, even in the most difficult of situations.

Nothing is impossible for you.

[pause and name those places]

Today of all days we thank you for family and friendships.
We pray that wherever we are and whoever we are with,
Either in person, or virtually, or by phone
That you bless our fellowship together
And that you enable us to reach out to others with your love,
So that all be blessed with the hope of the Christ Child.

Blessing and Glory and Honour be to you O Lord. AMEN

Hymn - STF 212

1] 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!*

2] God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

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

4] Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing:

Latin, 18th century, possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Blessing

May the love of the creator
The joy of the Holy Spirit
And the peace of the Christ Child
Be with you
This Christmas
And forever more. AMEN

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