

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DEC. 26<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Welcome to this service of thanksgiving and a Happy Christmas to you as we are still very much in the season of Christmas. During the service we will give thanks to God for his gift of his son Jesus and for all that we have learnt and will learn through our faith in him. We give thanks for Mary and Joseph for their faith and trust in God ; thanks for the shepherds who believe the message from the angels and went to see for themselves and for the Wisemen who came to find the Christ child. We give thanks for being able to worship in our churches and able to hold our Christmas services and celebrations .A special thanks for the dedication of our medical scientist determined to find the right vaccines that enable us to resume our daily lives. And we give thanks for the hard work and dedication shown by Dallas , Tim, Will, Ann, and all our lay contributors and P.T.OS who have ensured there has been a weekly telephone service for us to be able to still worship together during these unprecedented times, and this will be the final one as many people are now returning to church.

So much to be thankful for in this season of joy and celebration of the love God has for his people.

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us  
**and we beheld his glory.**

Father God, We thank you and praise you for the miracle of your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great joy to the whole world!

**We give you thanks and praise Amen**

*We make our confession.*

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins As we kneel with the shepherds before the new-born Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw *us* to himself and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins,  
that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Christ is born in the stable at Bethlehem**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*We say together*

**Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight all-round the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim messiah's birth  
Gloria, in excelsis deo  
Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Gloria, in excelsis deo**

READING 'And there were Shepherds

**Sages, leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star  
Gloria, in excelsis deo**

READING: 'Magi'

**Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all;**

Let us affirm our faith in God  
**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family**

**in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

PRAYERS

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for  
ever. Amen.**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and  
Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing ...  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
**he has come to his people and set them free.**  
Light has sprung up for the righteous  
**and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**  
Glory to God in the highest **and peace to his people on earth.**