

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

Nativity Service

Sunday 13th December
at 10:30am



How many promises can you see being made in today's readings?

What do these promises tell you about God?



Welcome

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth.
Jesus is our King.

(We light our Advent candle)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
Jesus is our Way.
With Jesus even dark places are light;
Jesus is the Truth.
In Jesus we shall live for ever:
Jesus is our Life.

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

- 1 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.*
- 2 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:
- 3 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:
- 4 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:

5 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:

John Mason Neale (1818–1866)*
translated from Latin Advent Antiphons

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 45.

First reading: Luke 1: 26-33 The Angel's promise to Mary

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.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Confession

Let us draw close to God and ask for his forgiveness.

For the times when we have not trusted your promises
and chosen to go our own way:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the moments when we have let our fears hold us back
from loving others and our hearts have grown cold:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For when we have been greedy for our selves
and not hungry for your generous ways of righteousness:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

How would you cope with a greeting like this?

The angel said, "Do not be afraid. You are very special to God."

Luke 1:29



Absolution

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

Amen.

Second reading: Luke 2: 4-7 Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Song: The Candle song

- 1 Like a candle flame,
 flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.
 God is with us, alleluia,
 come to save us, alleluia.
- 2 Stars and angels sing,
 yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark set a world on fire?
 God is with us, alleluia,
 come to save us, alleluia.
- 3 Yet his light shall shine
 from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame of his holy fire.
 God is with us, alleluia,
 come to save us, alleluia.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

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Did you know?

- The name Bethlehem means “House of Bread”
- The shortest route between Nazareth and Bethlehem was about 90 miles
- Animals were often kept in a separate area within a family house – a kind of central heating!
- The “guest room” may have just been a side room to a family house

Third reading: Luke 2: 8-12 The Angels bring their message of joy to the shepherds

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.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Offertory hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

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

2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 '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:

4 'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

What does an angel look like?

Why were the shepherds so scared? (These were brave and tough men, used to fighting robbers and dangerous creatures - even lions!)

What do you think convinced them to believe the angel and go to Bethlehem?

Have a go at drawing your own picture of an angel: scary or beautiful?

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:
6 'All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to men
 begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652–1715)
based on Luke 2.1-20

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 89.

Fourth reading: The Wise Men come to see Jesus Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

How do you think Mary felt when the wise men came to the house bringing their expensive gifts and worshipping Jesus?

The Promises of Christmas



The Wise Men followed the star to worship Jesus. Jesus is our King.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen*

Reflection

Prayers

The Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Author Unknown

Little children's book, Philadelphia, 1885

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 60.

Notices

Booking is required for the Carol Service on Sunday 20th December. Please book online via the website or by completing a booking form and returning it. If you could come to a 6:30pm repeat of the service, please do say so when you book - this will give us the greatest flexibility to accommodate all of those who want to come along. ***Bookings close today, 13th December.***

The Magazine for December – January 2021 is now available in church and online. This contains details of our Advent and Christmas services. Please take a copy if you don't have one delivered.

All Saints' Calendar 2021 These are available from Brian Morris 07732 644861, brimorris@sky.com and from Margaret Gamble on 0151 336 7540, £5 each. Enjoy lovely photographs, taken within the parish, throughout 2021.

Christmas card delivery service In order to maintain social distancing and a Covid-19 safe environment, we are *not* providing a table at the back of church for members of the congregation to leave and collect Christmas cards. Instead, we have provided a post box in which you can post Christmas cards for members of the congregation. Revd Vicky will deliver these as she runs around the parish. You are invited to make a donation (for All Saints') to sponsor her running. Please put your donation in one of the small brown envelopes (these are next to the post box) and posting it along with your cards. *The last date for posting is Sunday 20th December.*

Please complete a **Track and Trace form** with your details and leave this in the basket as you leave church today.

We need to collect the paper forms from all attendees even if you have also scanned the QR code on your phone.

Please turn over the notice on your pew to show that it has been used.

Please take this leaflet home with you after the service.

Thank you.

Advent and Christmas Services at All Saints'

Sunday 20th December

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

4:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

6:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas (*Repeat*)

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

11:00pm "Midnight" Holy Communion

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10:30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday 27th December

No services at All Saints' church

Sunday 3rd January 2021 Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

There will be a service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 16th December at 10:30am.

Morning Prayer is normally said in church on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15am



Contact information

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