

Welcome

St Nicholas Church

18 December 2022

4rd Sunday of Advent

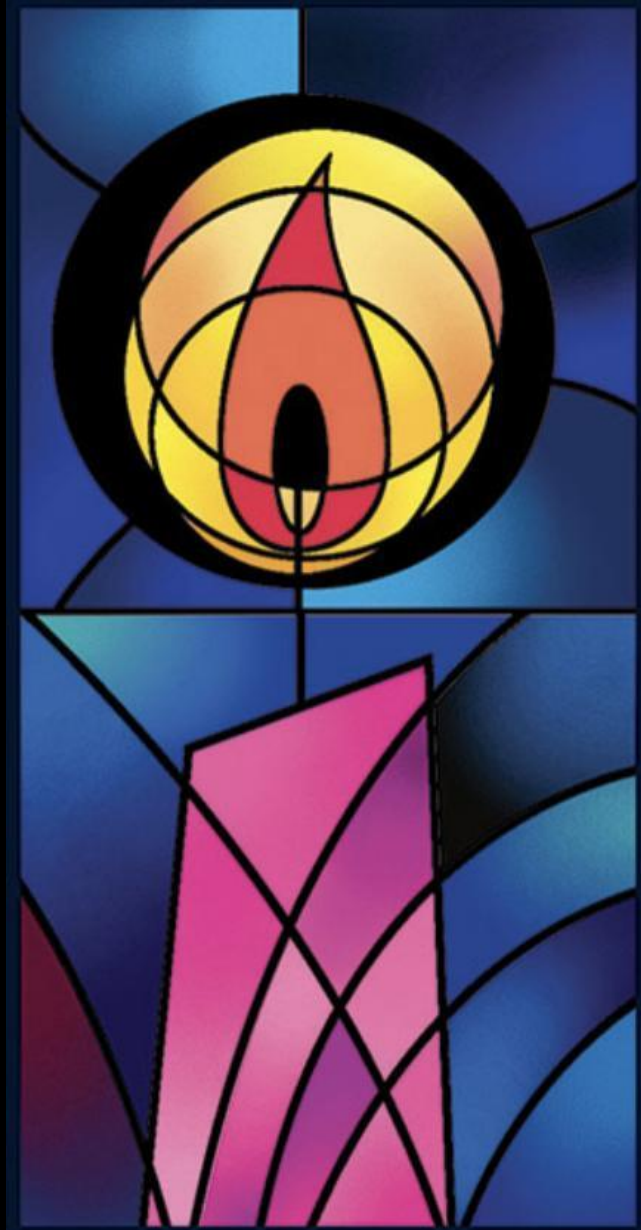




ST NICHOLAS

Little Donkey
Little Donkey

Lighting the four candles



JOY

Reader 1: There are many significant people in the story of Christ's birth, the shepherds the wise men, the innkeeper and Herod, but there were two in particular who stand out. Mary and Joseph, his earthly parents. Two people, a couple, not even married, chosen by God. It is these two people who are the final piece in God's incredible plan.

Reader 2: Luke's gospel says;- "In the sixth month, 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.'

Reader 1: So we see it is all there, Mary was a virgin. Because Joseph was a descendant of David - a fact that was prophesied by Isaiah, when the census was decreed they had to travel to Bethlehem, the place that Micah said would be honoured by God, where a ruler would be born. God's incredible plan for the coming to earth of his Son all fitted into place, like a jigsaw puzzle.

Reader 2: Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, it is a time when we can acknowledge our place in God's plan for the future of his creation. Let us pray;- Father, we have seen that everything you planned for the birth of Jesus came to be just as you said it would, help us to see that we have a place in your plans for the future,

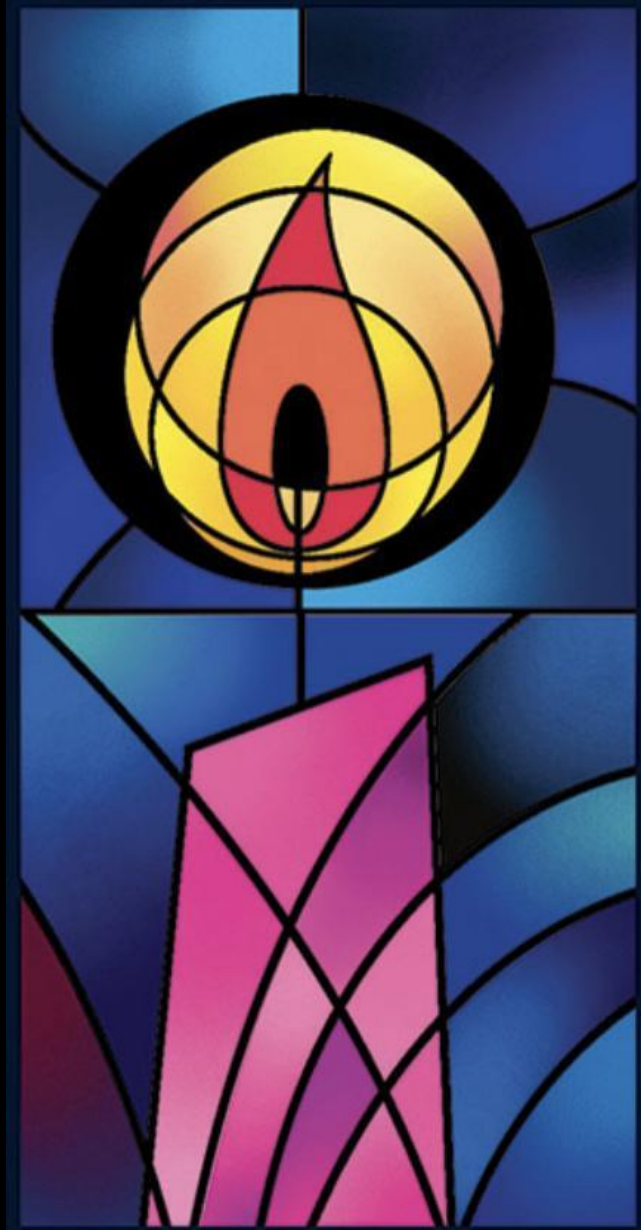
Reader 2: a place just for us, and that you will always be there with us, guiding us along the way. Help us to trust in your unfailing love, now and forever. Amen



ST NICHOLAS

Song: The Virgin
Mary had a baby
boy

A Moment of Silence



JOY

Into the daily cycle of our lives

When all seems well

With us and with the world

When our yoke is easy

And the burden light

You break in

All: And scatter our complacency

Into the daily cycle of our lives

When we are comfortable

And at our ease

When the fire is lit

But eyes are closed

You break in

All: And challenge our dependency

You break into
Our daily prayers
Humble hearts
Lay souls bare
You break in

All: You break in

You break in
When defences are down
With an Angel's shout
Or the quietest sound
You break in

All: You break in

All: And we change and all things change when you break in

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.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell**



ST NICHOLAS

Bible Verse:

Luke 2:1-7

the birth of Jesus

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.



ST NICHOLAS

Song: O little town
of Bethlehem



ST NICHOLAS

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

In this season of expectation, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. Into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. Into our homes and situations along with friends and families, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah. Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives, we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah

For beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. Our fears, our insecurities and our sins all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love. We cannot comprehend the reasoning only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and reaches out to a world in need. In this season of anticipation

We prepare to welcome you, Christ Jesus, Messiah

For beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us

in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. Our fears, our insecurities and our sins all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love.

We cannot comprehend the reasoning only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and reaches out to a world in need. In this season of anticipation

We prepare to welcome you, Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Our Father, which 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

debts, as we forgive our debtors

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from

evil:

For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory,

For ever. Amen



ST NICHOLAS

Christmas story in lego





ST NICHOLAS

Reflection



ST NICHOLAS

Offering/ Carol
When I think of
Christmas



ST NICHOLAS

Prayer for Offering And Others

A circle prayer. Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond, and the **circles of ripples that move out from the centre.**

Leader: Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

All: Hear the prayers of our hearts



ST NICHOLAS

Carol: O Come
all ye faithful



ST NICHOLAS

Benediction

**May God the Father bless us;
may Christ take care of us;
the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days
of our life. The Lord be our defender and
keeper of body and soul, both now and
for ever, to the ages of ages.**



ST NICHOLAS

The Grace



*We Wish You a
Merry Christmas*