



# Welcome to Orchardhill Church

Sunday 10 January 2021  
First Sunday after Epiphany

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**From wherever you are watching or listening,  
welcome to this shared time of worship from  
Orchardhill Church.**

## **Introit HYMN CH4 543**

### **Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

Longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us Your own, Your holy people

Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in Your church gathered today.*

Bernadette Farrell ccli licence 20979

## **Responsive paraphrase**

When the song of the angels is stilled,

**when the star in the sky is gone,**

when the kings and princes are home,

**when the shepherds are back with**

**their flocks,**

the work of Christmas begins:

**to find the lost,**

to heal the broken,

**to feed the hungry,**

to release the prisoner,

**to rebuild the nations,**

to bring peace among the people,

**to make music in the heart.**

**Prayer & Lords Prayer**

## HYMN CH4 326

### **As with gladness men of old**

did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

*William Dix (1837-1898) ccli licence 20979*

## All Age Time

### **Scripture John 3:1-21** *read by Elaine Cartlidge*

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

### **Scripture con't John 3:1-21**

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN**

Come, ride with kings to Bethlehem  
and kneel in company with them;  
follow the shepherds with delight  
and find the child they found that  
night.

*God so loved the world  
he gave his Son mankind to save.*

Come join the angels gathering  
and listen to the songs they sing;  
help spread the news for all to hear  
of Christ beneath the shining star.

Let Mary's wonder overflow  
that all God's promises are true;  
come see by her humanity  
God's presence and divinity.

Then celebrate, come dance and sing!  
This child is here God's peace to bring;  
his truth and joy for all to grant,  
his kingdom in our lives to plant.

## OFFERING

### HYMN CH4 888

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

praise Him, all creatures here below,  
praise Him above, you heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Prayer of Intercession and Dedication** *by Linda Moir*

### HYMN CH4 557

**O Love that will not let me go,**

I rest my weary soul in thee.

I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,

I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.

My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,

I cannot close my heart to thee.

I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,

I dare not ask to fly from thee.

I lay in dust, life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms  
red,  
life that shall endless be.

## BENEDICTION