



St. Luke's Church  
Maidenhead

## Crib Service

at 5.00 pm, on Christmas Eve



*This is a very special night. Children will be alert, hoping to catch the arrival a special visitor in their homes. If they have been good all year... well, they may be rewarded!*

*As Christians, we celebrate the arrival of an even more special person into the world at Christmas. We remember with joy the birth of Jesus, who was called the Christ, the Messiah, a light in a dark world.*

*During this service we will remember not only that Christ is light, but that he is the Light of the world, born as a human being at Christmas time.*

*We will pray that he will shine in us. We will remember and pray for the needs of the world. A collection will be taken in aid of The Children's Society, to help support their work among needy children.*

*We will each receive a candle to remind us that Jesus, who is God, cares for us personally, and longs to bring His light into our lives, not just at Christmas, but for ever.*

*The lights will be dimmed at the start of the service*

The world was in darkness  
and nobody knew  
the way to the Father as you and I do;  
they needed a light  
that would show them the way,  
and the bright light shone on Christmas Day.

## Greeting

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

*All* **to live in his marvellous light.**

*A candle is lit*

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth

*All* **Jesus is our King**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world

*All* **Jesus is our Way**

With Jesus even dark places are light

*All* **Jesus is the Truth**

In Jesus we shall live for ever

*All* **Jesus is our Life.**

## Carol

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee to-night.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.



## The Christmas story

## Carol

Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in Heavenly peace  
Sleep in Heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from Heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah  
Christ, the Saviour is born  
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, Holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy Holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth

### Address

### Prayers

### Thanksgiving

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;  
born a child,  
you are one with us.  
*All* **Glory to God in the highest**

Glory to Christ, Son of David;  
born to rule,  
you reign in our hearts.  
*All* **Glory to God in the highest**

Glory to Christ, Son of man;  
born to save,  
you are the light of the world.  
*All* **Glory to God in the highest**

### The Lord's Prayer

*All* **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.**

### Carol and Collection

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!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created: *O come ....*

Sing, choirs of Angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest: *O come...*

### **The Blessing**

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 of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

God shines in your hearts:  
**Praise to Christ our light!**

Christ is the light of the world!  
**Praise to Christ our light!**

Go, in the power of the Spirit,  
to bring light to others:  
**Praise to Christ our light!**

**A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas,  
from everyone at St. Luke's Church**

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