

# Stoke Holy Cross Church Christmas Service

## Sunday 13th December 2020, 10.30am

### Songs from Stoke Holy Cross Primary School & Opening Carol

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, let us, adore him...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens  
of heaven above;  
"Glory to God in the highest:"  
*O come, let us adore him...*

### Welcome and Lighting of the Advent Candle

#### 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7 *Darkness and Light*

Nevertheless, there will be no more  
gloom for those who were in distress.  
In the past he humbled the land of  
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but  
in the future he will honour Galilee of  
the nations, by the Way of the Sea,  
beyond the Jordan –

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have  
seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep  
darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle

and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government  
and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and for ever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

### Songs from Stoke Holy Cross Primary School:

#### Video: *The First Coming*

#### 2nd Reading: *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.

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. When they had  
seen him, they spread the word  
concerning what had been told them  
about this child, and all who heard it  
were amazed at what the shepherds  
said to them. But Mary treasured up all  
these things and pondered them in her  
heart. The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God for all the  
things they had heard and seen, which  
were just as they had been told.

### Talk

### Song

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son*  
*Praise the Spirit, three in one*  
*God of glory, Majesty*  
*Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost

To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died

*Praise the Father, praise the Son*

And the morning that You rose  
All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

*Praise the Father, praise the Son*

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## Prayers

**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 tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

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.

## Blessing

**Video of the following carols will  
be streamed on YouTube as we  
sing them in the churchyard**

**Once in royal David's city**  
stood a lowly cattle shed  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness;  
and he shares for all our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by  
We shall see him but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars, his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

**Joy to the World—**  
the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven  
And nature sing

Joy to the earth—the Saviour reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love

**Hark the herald angels sing**  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man  
with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new born King"*

Hail, the Heaven-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King.*