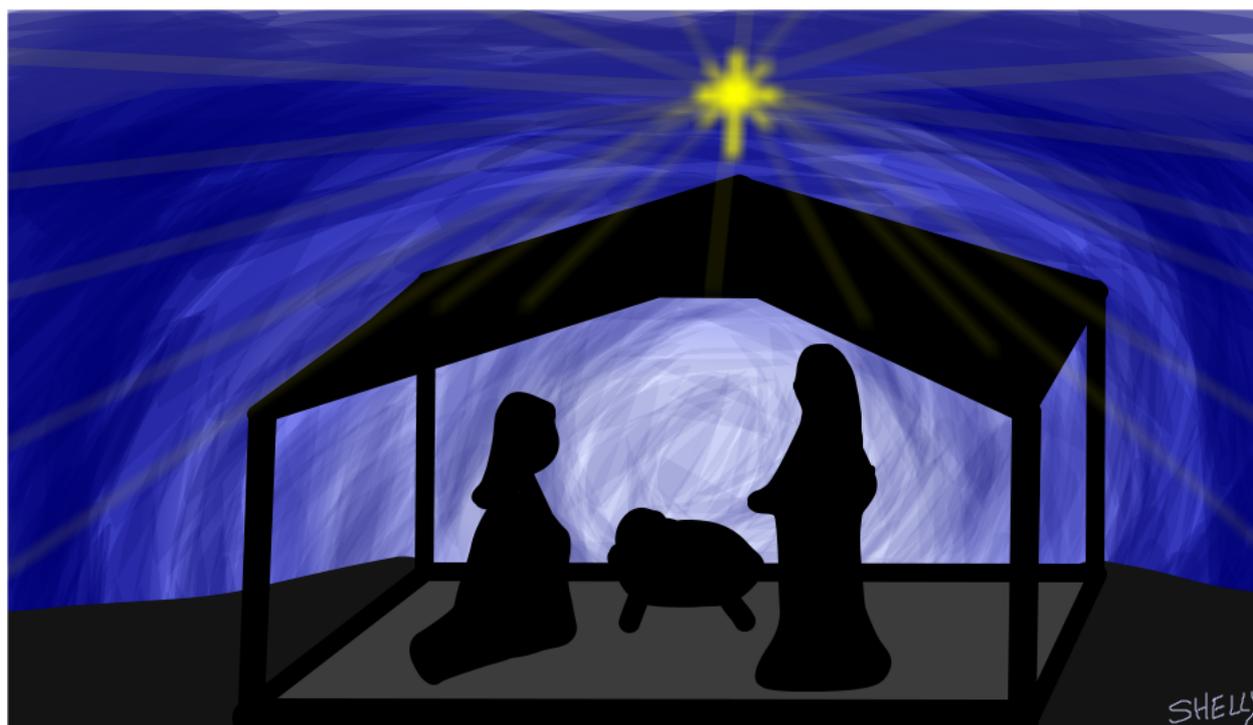


Benefice of Pimperne, Stourpaine and Durweston
with Bryanston



CHRISTMAS SERVICE
with Carols

It came upon the midnight clear

Carol

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And ye beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

Welcome and Gathering prayer

A seasonal variation may be used

I bring you good news of great joy

All a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born,

All unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

Hear the words of St Luke

When the angels had gone from them into heaven,

The shepherds said to one another

‘Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened
which the Lord has made know to us.’

So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby lying in a manger.

He is Christ the Lord Alleluia

All We worship and adore him. Alleluia.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with all

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,**

**through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

May almighty God,
Who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever.

All Amen.

The Gloria

We sing together

All Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have
mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Readings

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16

Please sit

God's Covenant with David

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

At the end the reader may say;

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Joy to the World

Carol

- 1 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.

- 2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 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.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Luke 1.67-79

Please sit

Zechariah's Prophecy

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour* for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

At the end the reader may say;

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together

All 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.**

**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.**

Silent Night

Carol

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3 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.

*John Freeman Young (1887)
based on Joseph Mohr (1818)*

Prayers

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy.

All hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

We draw together our prayers by saying the prayer that Jesus Christ taught us;

All 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 Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Hark the herald angels sing

Carol

- 1 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!*

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the 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!*

- 3 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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Notices

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthy and heavenly.
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature:
and the blessing of God almighty, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit be with *you* all for evermore.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ