

Christmas Day 2020  
*Christ Church New Southgate &  
Friern Barnet*

Please join with us at 11am to read this service together either in printed form, whatapp or via the youtube link on our website  
[www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org)

Each person in the church is assigned a deacon who will call you to see if you are alright in these times and to pray for you. Please feel free to call Ruth too if you wish – only happy to help! 020 8368 8157

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Welcome to our service today online. May I wish you all a very, very Happy Christmas indeed.

*Carol: Joy to the world*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLURukXoht8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLURukXoht8&feature=emb_logo)

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 world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, 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

*All age story: A Silly nativity*

How many mistakes can you spot that I make in the Christmas story? Shout out ‘Ho ho ho’ when you think I have ...

Once there was a girl called Sharon – Mary

She lived in a small town called Luton – Nazareth

An angel appeared to her and said she would have a baby.

Mary’s fiancé Samson – Joseph also had an angel appear to him to tell him about the baby

The emperor asked everyone to go back to their home town to register.

So Joseph and Mary went to Barbados – Bethlehem

They couldn’t find anywhere to stay in Bethlehem

So Mary gave birth to Jesus in a tent - Well a sort of outdoor room for animals.

Meanwhile shepherds were looking after their sheep in the fields when a robot started to sing – Angels sang not robots!

The angels told them to visit Jesus and they did, taking their camels – err shepherds look after sheep.

Some time later some kings arrived in an aeroplane to visit Jesus – definitely not true!

They had followed the bright star in the sky for such a long time.

They came to worship him and give thanks to God.

### *A Nativity Prayer*

Take each figure and use them to pray:

**Mary** - Thank you for parents and people who look after us

**Animals** - Thank you for animals and the world you have made

**Star** - Please show us the right way to go when we are confused

**Shepherds** - Help us to tell people who Jesus is

**Joseph** - Please help people who have to make difficult decisions

**Wise men** - Please help all people who are searching for hope to find it in God

**Jesus** - Thank you for sending Jesus to be with us and help us

### *Notice*

Thank you to the church decorators, to Sue, Jane, Sarah and Paul who happily and beautifully decorated the church ahead of the carol service on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I thought you'd like to see what they had prepared even though we are not in our building now.

Following the change to Tier 4, we have decided to move all of our services online. While the new restrictions for London do allow for communal worship, we have decided to exercise greater caution to protect the vulnerable within our community.

Please understand that this is a decision that I do not take lightly but I am seeking to enable

all of us to remain easily with our household or bubble with the least risk possible over Christmas.

We want all of us to stay safe and to avoid travelling where possible. We have already had a good number of cancellations for services booked.

This decision will be reviewed by the deacons when we receive information via the government website after 30 Dec 2020.

### *Advent candle*

In advent we have waited to tell the story of the Lord coming the earth. We are a waiting people as we look to see his return. All the while with patience and resilience we are encouraged by his light that changes darkness with Christ's love. May we know God Emmanuel, God with us today

### *Sermon*

I love snow globes. Do you have one? Here is one that we have out at Christmas time, it's small with a red base decorated with a bow, and when you shake it, snow falls all around Santa.

At the moment, our lives feel like they have been shaken. Our world has been shaken by a virus. Most of our lives have been changed by sanitiser, masks and travel restrictions. We shop, exercise and work differently. We socialise, play and worship differently. Our world has been shaken by a virus. For some it has been shaken to its core by the death of a loved one, life will not be the same again. For some, our job security and comfort of home has been shaken by the changing economy.

Our world does not look the same anymore, and we are mourning its passing.

At Christmas time we remember a time 2000 years ago when the world was shaken not by a virus but by a baby. The Jewish people were waiting for a new king, and they got a refugee baby. Mary was waiting to be married to Joseph, they got someone else's baby. The shepherds were minding their own business, and they got angels singing on high. As baby Jesus grew up, he taught with authority, touched the untouchables, turned tables and broke lots of silly religious rules. As Christ died on the cross, the earth shook.

The book of Hebrews 12.26 talks about God who shakes earth and heaven, for at the end of the world : 'I will shake not only the earth but heaven as well.' Our God is one whose love breaks through every habit and convention and overrules. Our God is the one whose grace overflows any vessel and offers all of us new life, who is faithful no matter how much our world is shaken. For as Christ came to the earth as a baby, Christ died and rose again. He also promised that he would return to the earth. At this point the earth and heaven would be shaken, and all that is temporary or transient would fall away leaving Christ alone for us. Christ who is the light and hope of all the world.

When you shake a snow globe, the flakes of snow gradually settle, and all you can see is what remains – here its Santa. What remains in our life now that our world has been shaken? Christ remains. Christ remains. Christ remains. The baby we remember today being born, grew up to be the king of the kingdom of God. Hebrew 12.27 says Jesus Christ's kingdom cannot be shaken. What remains is his love, his grace, his justice, his mercy, his kindness. As we celebrate Jesus coming to the

earth today, may we focus on what remains rather than what has been shaken. Christ remains, steadfast forever. Let us trust in the God who remains and so know his hope in our hearts.

*Carol: O come all ye faithful*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TghcwAoV8U0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TghcwAoV8U0&feature=emb_logo)

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  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

*Communion*

As Jesus is born to us, we remember God's might, power and amazing love. His love beckons us to draw near to him.

Everyone here is welcome at this meal. This meal reminds us of God's love and care for

us.  
And it all started with a story ...

Can you imagine? Jesus and his friends are climbing up the stairs. Soon they settle down and take their places around the low table and a hearty homemade meal is brought in.

And then Jesus reaches across and picks up a chunk of leftover bread. Everyone pauses, and looks towards him. He holds it up and says a thank you prayer to God.

Then he speaks. "Do you see this bread? Look, I am breaking it. Just like this bread, my body will be broken, so that everyone's sins can be forgiven. Each time you eat bread, I want you to remember this."

The bread passes round, and everyone takes some and chews it, wondering what Jesus means by his words.

Jesus reaches out again and picks up a big goblet of wine. Again, every eye is upon him. After he has said the thank you prayer he speaks. "See this wine? It has poured out for you. Just like this wine, my blood will be poured out, so that everyone's sins can be forgiven. Each time you drink wine, I want you to remember this."

And the cup is passed round, and everyone takes a drink from it, wondering what Jesus is talking about.

Now we take our turn, so let's say thank you to God:

Thank you God for the gift  
of your son to us as a baby.  
Thank you God for this bread  
and this wine that reminds us  
of Jesus love for us.

Thank you that through Jesus  
death everyone can be saved.

Our tables look different  
and even strange today,  
but your Table  
is always one defined by love.

We love one another  
even by being at church today.  
We love one another  
by wearing masks  
and distancing our bodies,  
even though we long  
to hold hands, hug, and sing.

The first communion meal  
was a fraught table  
just as ours is now.  
Jesus knew some of his friends  
would betray him,  
deny him, and abandon him.  
And he nourished them anyway,  
just as you nourish us  
in these strange times.  
You gave yourself to us in Jesus,  
pouring love over us,  
filling us with grace.

Let us eat together,  
remembering Christ's love.

*Eat bread*

Let us drink together,  
remembering Christ's love.

*Drink your drink*

Thank you for the story of Jesus and all it means, thank you. May we tell the story in our lives, help us to remember why we do so. Help us lord by your spirit to share your love, to be a friend to anyone, and to be good

news. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession*

Inspired by Rev. Amy C. Wake, First United Methodist Church of Honolulu.

Today we pray for the Mary's among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same. We pray for all serving the hungry and homeless this Christmas time, equip and bless them.

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

Today we pray for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kin-dom of God. We pray for all refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, help them Lord and protect them from those who seek to harm.

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

Today we pray for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness. Lord we pray you would bless and protect every lorry driver, fruit picker, and supermarket worker.

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

Today we pray for the kings among us, those whose leadership and intellect can achieve greatness. We pray for those with responsibility to lead us in this time of crisis of Covid-19 and Brexit. Grant our leaders your wisdom, humility and courage.

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

Today we pray for every child among us. Each new birth - regardless of circumstances - reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God. We pray for all children that they might live in homes where they can flourish and dream big. Grant every child a wonderful sense of your love for them.

Lord hear us – **Lord graciously hear us**

**It came upon the midnight clear -**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukGi-jx5S2M&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukGi-jx5S2M&feature=emb_logo)

- 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 With sorrow brought by sin and strife  
the world has suffered long,  
and, since the angels sang, have passed  
two thousand years of wrong;  
for man at war with man hears not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, you men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!
- 3 And those whose journey now is hard,  
whose hope is burning low,  
who tread the rocky path of life  
with painful steps and slow:  
O listen to the news of love  
which makes the heavens ring!  
O rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!

4 And still the days are hastening on –  
by prophets seen of old –  
towards the fulness of the time  
when comes the age foretold:  
then earth and heaven renewed shall  
see  
the Prince of peace, their king;  
and all the world repeat the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Blessing*

**ALL: 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 Jesus,  
be ours this Christmas.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the  
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among  
us and remain with us always. Amen.