

**Offering**  
Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

**Collect Prayer**

**Bible Readings**  
Isaiah 52:7-10 , Hebrews 1:1-4 & John 1:1-14

**Hymn 118**  
See him lying on a bed of straw

**The Sermon**  
The Reverend Charles Royden

**Hymn 107**  
In the bleak mid winter

**Prayers**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
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

**Hymn 110**  
O come all ye faithful

**Final Prayer**  
God our Father, whose word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Christ the Lord.

**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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.



**Family Worship for  
Christmas Day**



**Welcome**

Minister: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light

**All: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has shined** *Isaiah Chapter 9*

Minister: In the name of Christ, the light of the world, we welcome you.  
Grace, mercy and peace be always with you.

**All: And also with you**

**Opening Prayer**

**Lord Jesus, before whom the Magi laid their gifts, and whom humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we celebrate your birth at Bethlehem, and be born in our hearts today. Amen.**

**The Fifth and Last Candle -  
Jesus is Emmanuel 'God with us'  
(White Candle)**

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

Last Sunday we lit four candles to remind ourselves of  
*(Each candle is lit as the reader speaks)*

**First Candle** - Jesus The Son of David  
**Second Candle** - Jesus Prince of Peace  
**Third Candle** - Jesus Lamb of God  
**Fourth Candle** - Jesus Son of God

Today is the fifth Sunday of Advent and we will light a candle to remember Jesus as Immanuel, God with us.

**Scripture Matthew Chapter 1:18** This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her

quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

### **Commentary**

God had come close to people throughout history, through prophets and priests. Now Matthew quotes the words of the prophet Isaiah to tell us that Jesus was no mere prophet, in Jesus God had actually come to dwell with the people. Jesus was not a messenger sent from God, now God had come in person. The Gospel of Matthew begins by reminding us God come to us in this unique and special way as Jesus Immanuel. The Gospel of Matthew closes by reminding us that Jesus is still among us today and he will continue to be 'until the end of the age.'

Leader            Jesus is Immanuel 'God with us'  
**All**                **Jesus the name high over all**

**Thank you Lord Jesus that you are to us an ever present friend. You were of one being with the father, and yet you left the throne of heaven to live among us as a servant king. You suffered death and poured out your love as you died on the cross. You brought peace to us and you set before us an example of humility , obedience and love. So may we be drawn to serve you and bring glory to your name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Hymn 104**

Good Christians all rejoice

### **Confession**

**Minister:** 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.

**All:**            **O Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength and not by the power of your resurrection. We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as though faithless and unbelieving. We have lived for this world alone and doubted our home in heaven. We turn to your mercy as those who were once in darkness but have now received your light in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**    *God's forgiveness*

### **Hymns**

**Christmas bells! Christmas bells! Christ is born they say. He came down to earth for us, in Mary's arms he lay.**

Angels made it known, shepherds came to see,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords, in a stable born for me.

In the inn they found no room, in a manger he was laid,  
where the ox and ass, and animals, in a tribute lowed and brayed.

Wise men came from far, precious gifts they brought,  
to the One who gave up all for us and made himself as nought.

He came and still he's here, still with us today.  
So let us put our trust in him, the Truth, the Life, the Way.

**Come and join the celebration, its a very special day:  
come and share our jubilation, there's a new king born today!**

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,  
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,  
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar,    So...

God is with us, round the world the message bring,  
He is with us, 'welcome', all the bells on earth are pealing..