

## Hymn

It was on a starry night when the hills were bright,  
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still;  
then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,  
a boy was born, King of all the world.

*And all the angels sang for him,  
the bells of heaven rang for him;  
for a boy was born, King of all the world.  
And all the angels sang for him,  
the bells of heaven rang for him;  
for a boy was born, King of all the world*

Soon the shepherds came that way, where the baby lay,  
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side,  
And their hearts believed again, For the peace of men;  
For a boy was born, King of all the world.      *Chorus*

## 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



## Family Worship for Christmas Day 2009



## 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 Last Candle - The Birth of Christ Christmas Day

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Leader: We have lit candles to remember the patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary the mother of Jesus.  
*(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)*

Today we light the candle which celebrates the birth of Jesus

## Luke Chapter 2

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 room for them in the inn.

We light this last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The promise to Abraham, foretold by the prophets, proclaimed by John the Baptist and made flesh by the holy Virgin Mary. Lord Jesus you have come to us once again. We

remember your birth in Bethlehem and celebrate your presence among your people here today.

*(Light the white Christ candle now.)*

Leader: Let us pray

**Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. Amen**

### Hymn

God rest you merry gentlemen 103

### 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

*Come and join the celebration, it's 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.

*Come and.....*

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

*Come and.....*

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

*Come and.....*

### 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