



ST IVES UNITING CHURCH
ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE (ADVENT 3)
SUNDAY DECEMBER 13TH 2020

Welcome and Call to Worship

We light the third Advent Candle.

Emily Jacobbson

The coming of the Christ Child gives us all great joy,
A deep-down joy that comes from knowing that God cares,
He is a God who is not remote, he is close to us at all times!

We light the advent candle of Joy

Thanks be to God - Emmanuel!

Hymn 268 "Joy to the world."

Reading **THE MESSIAH IS FORETOLD** John Holliday Smith

Isaiah Chapter 9 Verses 2 - 7

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

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Hymn 272 “Come thou long-expected Jesus”

Prayer for the Advent and Christmas seasons

Lawrence Peak

Eternal God, each year our calendar turns over and we know that Christmas is coming. Each year we seek to buy the right presents and stock up the kitchen. So now we seek to prepare our hearts and minds. Help us to glimpse the wonder of it all, the strangeness and the mystery which is beyond our science and logic, how your eternal love and creativity and hope came into this world in the life of Jesus. May that wonder fill us with joy.

Help us as we prepare, to recognise the little candle of faith in many lives today, obsessed as we are with all the holidays and family needs. Don't blow out that little candle, Lord, but through the Spirit encourage all that is true and hopeful in our community celebrations.

And as we prepare, help us to know that the world is still your world, that the human family is your family, beloved, precious, offered the light of Jesus and called to Bethlehem. Amen.

Vale Rev Bernard Thorogood (1928 – 2020)

Reading

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Mike Tickell

John Chapter 1 Verses 1 – 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christmas Bowl “Sharing Joy in Sri Lanka”



Poem

Bethlehem Scene

Caroline Turner

See now the shepherds their night watch are keeping,



Luke Chapter 2 Verses 1 – 20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So 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. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

¹⁵When 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.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn 299 “While shepherds watched”

Advent Prayer

Hazel Ruskin

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations this Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus”

Amen

(Henri Nouwen)

Musical Interlude “O Holy Night” King’s College Cambridge
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTFG_nvreol

Offering and Dedication

Prayers of the People

Seng Eng Low

Each petition ends with the words “Lord we pray, hear our prayers” and the people respond, “Bring us the joy of the Christmas Season”.

Lords Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
 are yours, now and forever. Amen.

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여
 이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며
 나라이 임하옵시며
 뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것 같이
 땅에서도 이루어지이다.
 오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고
 우리가 우리에게
 죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것 같이
 우리 죄를 사하여 주옵시고
 우리를 시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고

다만 악에서 구하옵소서
 대개 나라와 권세와 영광이
 아버지께 영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘

Hymn 304 “O come all ye faithful”

Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Christ, the Son of God gladden your hearts.
 By his coming to dwell among us,
 And bring you his peace;
 And the blessing of God almighty
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 Rest and abide with you all now and forever.
Amen

Organ Postlude



Sincere thanks to our soloist Pru Clearwater and organist Jim Abraham.