



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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Last Candle - The Birth of Christ *(White Candle)*

Jesus is born on Christmas Day

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Leader: Today is Christmas Day the day on which we celebrate the gift to us of the birth of Jesus and recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle - We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle - We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle - We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle - We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ which we celebrate this Christmas Day. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ Candle now.)

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. We look forward to that day when you will come again and we will behold you face to face with all the company of heaven'.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

All: Thank you Lord God, for the gift you have given to us in Jesus. We praise you that in Jesus your promises to us are fulfilled and we look forward to that day when he will come again and we will behold him face to face, with all the company of heaven.

Hymn 103

God rest you merry gentlemen

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 you again and ask that you would have mercy on us. As those who were once in darkness but have now received your light in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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..

Offering

*(If you are a tax payer, please use the envelopes provided
so that we can reclaim tax, thank you!)*

**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.**

Hymn 118

See him lying on a bed of straw

Collect Prayer

Bible Readings

Hymn 113

O Little town of Bethlehem

The Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

Hymn 104

Good Christians all rejoice

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 him who is Christ the Lord.



The Blessing