



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 25/26 December 2021

10:30am – Christmas Morning led by the Rev Emma Cusack – online only

10:30am – Circuit Service by Circuit Ministers – online only

You can join our Services today online or by telephone – details are in the Service headers

Hi everyone

Attached you'll find the Service sheets for Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

No other news to pass on (if I hear anything about 2022 Services, I'll let everyone know) so, on behalf of the Church (and Denise and I) . . . *Robin*

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:10-11

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year

Christmas Day Family Celebration

25 December 2021, 10:30am

Christmas Day. Led by Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/QRmvaZSnUFE

or join on Zoom: bit.ly/2J5jvY8

To join the service through Zoom on your landline phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and when prompted, enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by #; just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

You will then be connected to the service – simply hang up at the end or whenever you wish to leave.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Shout for joy to God, all the earth,
sing the glory of his name, and give him glorious praise!
Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
All the earth worships you and sings your praises;
they sing praises to your name.'

Carol: Singing the Faith 196: Come and join the celebration

Due to copyright restrictions, the words for this hymn cannot be reproduced here.

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

The first four candles are lit.

As we light this Christmas candle,
may its flame be for us a sign of Jesus' birth.

Loving God, today – on this special day – you remind us
that you can use anyone and everyone for your purposes.
We willingly offer you all that we are and all that we have,
choosing to believe that who we are is enough to be used by you.
We do this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The fifth, central candle is lit.

Carol:

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.

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.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Prayer

God of wonder, with joy and celebration we gather today to welcome afresh the gift
of the child born to be king; Emmanuel, God with us; light for the world and a
beacon in the darkness. Jesus Christ is born among us. Jesus Christ is born for us.
Let us come to you and celebrate. **Amen.**

Have you opened your presents? Show and Tell!

Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

(NIV)

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

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 guest room available for them.

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

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

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

When 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.'

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

Talk

Including a video from the Bible Society's 'Advent Encounter'

Prayers

Today, in all the demands,
we pray for those who are facing a Christmas
without someone they love.

God of goodness, **hear us and be with us.**

Today, in all the delights,
we pray for those who are facing a Christmas alone.

God of goodness, **hear us and be with us.**

Today, in all the celebration, we pray for those who are facing conflicts.

God of goodness, **hear us and be with us.**

Today, in all the time at tables, we pray for those who are hungry.

God of goodness, **hear us and be with us.**

Amen.

Carol: Singing the Faith 212

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Blessing

Loving God,
today, Christmas Day,
help us to look upon the food we share with thanks,
help us to take joy in the company of our friends and family,
help us to be thankful for all the gifts with which you bless us.
In the name of Jesus, who is born in hearts again today.

Amen.

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Circuit Service, 26 December, 10:30am

*Led by Rev Paul Timmis, Rev Emma Cusack,
Rev Fiona Ellingham, and Deacon Dawn Canham*

Hosted online by Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Watch live or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/_NkYtWKtIH4

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Call to Worship

Led by Rev Paul Timmis

Carol

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,
worship Christ the King;
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three-in-One:

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Welcome

Led by Rev Paul Timmis

Opening Prayers

Led by Rev Emma Cusack

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Read by Rev Fiona Ellingham

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayers of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Led Rev Fiona Ellingham & Rev Emma Cusack

Reading: Luke 2: 41-52

Read by Deacon Dawn Canham

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his

understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'

He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Carol

Who would think that what was needed
to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army,
proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
that a child might lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon
hosts a holy helpless thing.

Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science
span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether,
with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)
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Reflection

Led by Rev Paul Timmis

Carol

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,
nor the earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
God, the Lord Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air —
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him —
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Led by Deacon Dawn Canham

**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 for ever.
Amen**

Carol

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes, with succour speedy,
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him, on the mountains,
shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
for he shall have dominion
o'er river, sea, and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion
or dove's light wing can soar.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
that name to us is Love.

James Montgomery (1771-1854), from Psalm 72

Blessing

Led by Deacon Dawn Canham

We invite you to join Stoneleigh Methodist at **11pm on 31 December**
for our Watchnight Service led online by Rev Emma Cusack.

This service will take place on Zoom with the same details
that can be found at the top of this service sheet.

We hope you have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.