



Welcome

We welcome you today whatever your reason for coming

**'A global Christian family following
Jesus at the heart of London'**



**9:30 am Sunday, 21st December 2025
4th Sunday of Advent**

ONLINE SERVICE

Preacher: Revd Stephen Poxon with Revd Tony Miles

Matthew 1:18-24

LIVE-STREAM WELCOME

VIDEO CALL TO WORSHIP – Love of God
Radiant Advent

VIDEO SONG – Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice;

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

OPENING PRAYERS

Revd Tony Miles

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join in using your own language or the version you prefer.

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.

VIDEO LESSON Matthew 1:18-24

Read by Jessica Sampson

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 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. **21** 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.’

22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

VIDEO HYMN – Thorns in the Straw

Since the day the angel came
it seemed that everything had changed.
The only certain thing
was the child that moved within
on the road that would not end,
winding down to Bethlehem,
so far away from home.

Just a blanket on the floor
of a vacant cattle stall,
but there the child was born.
She held Him in her arms
and as she laid Him down to sleep,
she wondered, will it always be
so bitter and so sweet?

*And did she see there in the straw
by His head a thorn,
and did she smell myrrh in the air
on that starry night?
And did she hear angels sing
not so far away,
'til at last the sun rose blood-red
in the morning sky?*

Then the words of ancient seers
tumbled down the centuries
a virgin shall conceive,
God with us, Prince of Peace.
Man of sorrows strangest name.
Oh Joseph, there it comes again,
so bitter, yet so sweet.

Chorus

And as she watched Him through the years,
her joy was mingled with her tears,
and she'd feel it all again,
the glory and the shame,
And when the miracles began
she wondered, 'Who is this man,
and where will this all end?'

'Til, against a darkening sky,
the one she loved was lifted high,
and with His dying breath
she heard Him say, 'Father, forgive!'
and to the criminal beside,
'Today — with me, in Paradise.'
So, bitter, yet so sweet.

Chorus

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

SERMON 'Emmanuel – God is with us!'
Revd Stephen Poxon

VIDEO SONG – What a Beautiful Name (O Come Let us Adore Him)
You were the Word at the beginning
One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You Our Christ

*What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

*What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh, come let us adore him
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
We'll give you all the glory, we'll give you all the glory
We'll give you all the glo-ry, Christ the Lord!

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God you reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

*What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus*

*What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus*

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PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS Revd Stephen Poxon

LOVE FEAST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO GLOBAL GREETING – World Methodist Council from Ghana

OFFERING PRAYER

VIDEO HYMN – O Come All Ye Faithful
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!*

True God of true God,
light of light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created

O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

'Glory to God
in the highest.

O come, let us adore him...

Late 18th Century

HEALING PRAYER TEAM

Revd Tony Miles

THE BLESSING

Revd Stephen Poxon

VIDEO OUTRO ORGAN

Noël Suisse by Daquin played at MCHW (Gerard Brooks)

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