



Welcome

We welcome you today whatever your reason for coming

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

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**CHURCH ONLINE
EVERY SUNDAY**

11.00pm

24th December 2021



**METHODIST
CENTRAL HALL**



WESTMINSTER

ONLINE SERVICE

Led by Revd Tony Miles and
Deacon Ali McMillan

Preacher: Deacon Ali McMillan

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-20

LIVE STREAM WELCOME AND NOTICES

VIDEO CALL TO WORSHIP - Silent Night
Fleebridge Media

VIDEO CAROL - It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
STF 205

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring.
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
to prophets shown of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810–1876)

OPENING PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Led by Revd Tony Miles

Great and wonderful are the things the Lord God has
done for us. The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light.

In the silence and stillness let us open our hearts and
lives to God, that we may be prepared for his coming
as Light and Word, as Bread and Wine.

Silence

We say together:

Loving God,
you have searched us and known us, our blindness,
our frailties, our fears and our selfishness.
In sorrow we confess that we have sinned against you
and disobeyed your command to love.
Forgive us, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who
became like us that we might become like him.
Amen.

The true light that gives light to everyone has come
into the world. To all who receive him, he gives power
to become children of God.

This is Christ's gracious word:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Ever-living God, whose glory was revealed in the Word
made flesh, may we, who have seen such splendour in
the coming of your Son, be true witnesses to your self-
giving love in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Revd Tony Miles

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great
light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³ You 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.

⁴ For 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.
⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
⁶ For 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.
⁷ Of 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.

VIDEO CAROL - Once In Royal David's City STF 214

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the needy, poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

Read by Elisabeth Nelson-Williams

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^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

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

¹³ Suddenly 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.'

¹⁵ 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.'

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

OFFERING AND COMMUNION CAROL

During the singing of this carol an offering will be taken for the work of Christian Aid

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND INVOCATION

ADDRESS 'Good News of Great Joy'
Deacon Ali McMillan

THE LIGHT
Centreline New Media

VIDEO CAROL - O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
this is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
before us breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees!
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born!
O night divine!
O night, O night divine.

Fall on your knees!
O hear the angels voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born!
O night divine!
O night, O night divine!

O holy night! A mother holds her baby,
a source of joy to the whole human race!
Peace to the world will be the gift he offers,
sing grateful thanks to this child full of grace.
The King of kings, a tiny child before us,
in all our troubles, born to be our friend.
Fall on your knees!
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born!

O night divine!
O night, O night divine.
Fall on your knees!

Refrain

*John S Dwight (1813-1893) adapted by Christine B
McCann (born 1951)*

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Revd Tony Miles

Let us pray

Unlooked for,
Christ comes

To shepherds,
watching their sheep through the long, dark night,
he comes with the glory of the angels' song
and in the humility of the manger.

Silence

Loving God, we pray for our community ...
In the midst of our everyday lives, surprise us with
glimpses of the glorious, humble love at the heart of
existence.

Lord, come to your people.

Let your mercy set us free.

Silence

Loving God, we pray for our community ...
In the midst of our everyday lives, surprise us with
glimpses of the glorious, humble love at the heart of
existence.

Lord, come to your people.

In your mercy set us free.

Searched for,
Christ comes.

To the wise and powerful,
star-led to Bethlehem, seeking a king,
he comes, child or Mary,
crowned with meekness,
worthy of every gift.

Silence

Loving God, we pray for the leaders of the world ...
Guide them with your light to the true wisdom of
justice and peace, of freedom and respect for every
human life.

Lord, come to your people,

In your mercy set us free.

Longed for,
Christ comes.

To Anna and Simeon,
whose days are lived in faithful expectation,
he comes, a new life to the old,
a living prophecy of hope.

Silence

Loving God, we pray for the Church in all the world ...
Unite us by your Spirit, and make us faithful witnesses
to the hope we have in you.

Lord, come to your people.

In your mercy set us free.

Prayed for,
Christ comes.

To men and women, girls and boys,
crying out in darkness, pain and loneliness,
he comes, baptized, at one with us,
our Saviour, healer and friend.

Silence

Loving God, we pray for those whose lives are hard
and painful or whose existence is sorrowful, bitter or
empty ...

In their need, may they know your healing touch,
reaching out to comfort, strengthen and restore.

Lord, come to your people.

In your mercy set us free.

Unlooked for and searched for,
longed for and prayed for,
loving God, you come to us now
as you have come to your people in every age.
We thank you for all who have reflected the light of
Christ.

Help us to follow their example and bring us with them
to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PEACE

Rev'd Tony Miles

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

VIDEO CAROL - Silent Night

Silent Night, holy Night
All is calm, all is bright
Round the virgin and her child
Holy infant, so gentle and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quail at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
heav'nly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams your holy face
With the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Joseph Moir (1792-1848)

LOVE FEAST

Revd Tony Miles

VIDEO CHOIR - Silver Star

VIDEO CAROL - O Come All Ye Faithful STF 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!*

True God of true God,
Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created:

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our hearts' oblations:

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:

Latin, 18th century, possibly by John Francis Wade

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Deacon Ali McMillan

VIDEO - Jesus in Nativity
CONTACTING THE HEALING PRAYER TEAM
Revd Tony Miles

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY - 'Night of the Star by Richar
Elmore'. Played at MCHW - Gerard Brooks**

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