



ONLINE ALL AGE SERVICE

Sunday 5th December 2021

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). At the end of the service sheet, is this week's take away sheets from Roots on the Web.

“By the tender mercy of our God the dawn from on high will break upon us ...”

Luke 1.78 NRSV

Welcome & Opening Prayer

As we light this Advent candle, may its flame be a light that shines for all to see – a sign that Jesus is for all. May we know God's presence and power as we gather in the name of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

Amen.

Song Light of the world
Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Written by Chris Tomlin. Sung and played by the musicians of Holy Trinity Platt Church (Soloist: Katie Ritson) #CCLI 2650577

Confession

**Holy God, we see you coming towards us,
coming in the words of the Bible,
coming in the lives of your prophets,
coming in the witness of this community.**

**As you get closer, we are reminded that
we have turned our backs on you**

**and neglected your way.
We are sorry and turn round to face you again.**

**Thank you for your faith in us.
As a sign of our new life together,
we affirm each other with a sign of peace.**

share a hug, a kiss, or say a silent prayer for those who need God's peace today.

Sharing the Word

Today's reading Luke 2 NIV abridged... Read by Jon Homan

Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... 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.... 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... And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, 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...'

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.

The Talk ...

by Natasha Brady

Song What child is this? (tune Greensleeves)

Public Domain. Performed by Worship Lyric Video. #CCLI 30983

Prayer time

Foil prayers ... for these prayers you will need a small piece of kitchen foil.

The Lord's 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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Final Song Calypso Carol

Song © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate, admin. Jubilate Hymns Ltd. Video © 2020 Jubilate. Performed by Jubilate feat. Noel Robinson

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

(Hold out your hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God

(Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

(Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen

(Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!)

Thank you for joining us today.

Quick Note The Church office will be open Monday & Wednesday 10am – 1pm, other days please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331.



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Thank you for whatever you are able to give

Luke 2

Today we will be exploring one of the best-known stories of the Christian world. It is a story of joy and celebration that brings the whole church family together.

'In those days...' (v. 1), not just any days, those days. Scholars may argue as to dates and times, but there is a theological point being made that we must not miss. In the same way that the God of the exodus allows himself to be tabernacled in the Temple in Jerusalem, God dwelling in a specific place, Jesus comes to dwell with humanity also at a specific place and time. In so doing he is able to redeem all of time and all of space. Jesus is the fulfilment of the world's hope but he is rejected and pushed to the margins of human society. Even when the possibility of the resolution of hopelessness is put before us, it is rejected. But there are those for whom the announcement of this birth is a cause of real joy — shepherds who hear the angels' song and rejoice in this birth. But as we leave the stable with them, spare a thought for the mother who knows that in Jesus everything will be accomplished, but not yet.



How often do we find silence and calm in the month of December? Does it feel like the busiest month to you? Can it sometimes feel like we are too busy to spend time with God? Try to be still and spend some time in silent prayer. Light a tall candle, and watch and wait as it begins to melt. Do this every night during Advent as we await Jesus' birth. How do you think Mary felt that first Christmas, waiting for Jesus? How do you think John felt, waiting for Jesus? How do you feel, waiting for Jesus?



Faith 24/7 – Helping you to go with God this week.

#discipleship: families

Mealttime card

- How does your family celebrate the birth of Christ?
- Christmas is often overwhelmed with commercialism. What does your family do that is special for Christmas in a Christian sense?

Question to start and end the session

So... how do you help to bring 'peace on earth' at this time of year?

#discipleship: extra

The story of Jesus' birth is a message of peace for the world. How could you spread peace throughout your neighbourhood? Try singing Christmas carols. How about working at a food bank or helping people with shopping or chores?

Social action

This is a great time of year to reduce, reuse and recycle. Try wrapping presents in reusable cloth bags or giving experiences instead of physical presents. Give 'gifts of hope': buy a goat, or school supplies for someone in a developing country.

