

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community
Scattered Church: Worship at home on 28/12/25 Christmas 1

Hymn

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord
who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

English traditional

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself
and cleanse us from all our sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he

redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 2:10-end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2:13-end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

(Dial 01647 407047 to hear it again during the week)

Affirmation of faith

We say together in faith

Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord God almighty,

who was, and is, and is to come.

**We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.
We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17, 20

Intercessions

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let us offer our prayers for the needs of the world.

Wonderful Counsellor,
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
make the whole world know
that the government is on your shoulders ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace,
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord of the Church,
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

cf Isaiah 9.6

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

**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.

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

cf Isaiah 9.6,7

Notices

**God our Father,
your Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,
worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.
Blessed be God our strength and our salvation
now and for ever. Amen.

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Hymn

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below;
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
sing through all Jerusalem:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Low within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in heights sublime,
reigns above the cherubim:

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing peace on earth
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Edward Caswall 1814-1878

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Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community Services

Telephone Services

(Call 0333 0110 616; code 334 7721)

Wednesdays at 6pm: Evening Prayer

Sundays at 9am: Sunday Worship – a half hour Service of the Word: hymns, readings and prayers

Church Services

Jan 4 Epiphany	10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton 10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 11 Baptism of Christ	10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford 10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock 10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford
Jan 18 Epiphany 2	10.30am MC HC St James Christow 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 25 Conversion of St Paul	10.30am MC HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford 4.00pm Forest Church
Feb 1 Candlemas	10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton 10.30am HC St James Christow 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

Feb 8 2 before Lent 10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford
 10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
 10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford

Feb 15 Sunday before Lent 10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
 10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday 6.00pm HC St James Christow

Feb 22 Lent 1 10.30am MC HC St Mary Dunsford
 4.00pm Forest Church Ashton

Mar 1 Lent 2 10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton
 10.30am HC St James Christow
 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

Mar 8 Lent 3 10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford
 10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
 10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford

Mar 15 Mothering Sunday 10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
 10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford

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Ashton



Bridford



Christow



Doddiscombleigh



Dunchideock



Dunsford