



St Edmund's Church Taverham and St Peter's Church Ringland

Sunday 21st December 2025

You stepped down from heaven, humbly You came

God of all creation, here with us

In a starlit manger, Emmanuel

Light of the world, here to save

Adore, come let us adore

Oh come let us adore Him

The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord

Let all that is within us, adore

Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low

Angel voices sing of peace on earth

What have I to offer to heaven's King

I will bring my life, my love, my all

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King

Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening

At your feet we fall

Adore, come let us adore

Oh come let us adore Him

The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord

Let all that is within us, adore

(Graham Kendrick)

Light of God, rising in our dreams, awaken us to your promises.

By your revealing light, may we see with faith and respond with courage.

Light of Christ, rising even in our pain and our struggle, awaken us to new life.

By your renewing light, may we see a new way to live, and follow confidently.

Spirit's light, rising in our hearts, awaken us to the gift of peace.

By your resurrecting light, may we see ourselves through your grace,

give ourselves to your purposes,

and serve you and worship you with all our hearts.

We await your coming with humble serenity,

that you may guide our feet in the way of peace.

Come, Beloved Jesus, come! Amen.

(UnfoldingLight.com)

A family hiding from the storm

Found no place at the keeper's door
It was for this a Child was born
To save a world so cold and hollow

The sleeping town they did not know
That lying in a manger low
A Saviour King who had no home
Has come to heal our sorrows

*Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart?
Is there room in your heart
For God to write His story?*

Shepherds counting sheep at night
Do not fear the glory light
You are precious in His sight
God has come to raise the lowly

You can come as you are
But it may set you apart
When you make room in your heart
And trade your dreams for His glory

Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart

Mother holds the Promise tight
Every wrong will be made right
The road is straight and the burden's light
For in His hands He holds tomorrow

Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
Make room in your heart
(Casting Crowns)

God is soaked in our world.
God's Spirit
lives and breathes
in and through
all that is.

We are lost only when we
do not understand that God
is already with and in
each one of us.

Our task is recognition
of God's initiative
to be at home in us—
acceptance
of God-With-Us.

Then we cannot but be glad.
(Edwina Gateley)

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 1

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honour thee
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
To me be as it pleaseth God, she said
My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!
(Traditional)

In a few days 'time
we will be celebrating
the birth of Christ,
so let us restore our souls,
and refresh our spirits.

**Restore us, O God,
let your face shine
that we may be saved. Amen.**

Though we are complicit
in the frenzy of consumerism,
the unreality of expectations,
the tension of gift giving,
and the pressure to attend gatherings:

**Restore us, O God,
let your face shine
that we may be saved. Amen.**

Though we would like
to be more Christ-centred
in our daily lives,
we know we can turn to God,
and be restored. So, we ask:

**Restore us, O God,
let your face shine
that we may be saved. Amen.**

(Ann Siddall)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

*Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells
Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells
They cheer us on our heavenly way, sweet chiming bells
They cheer us on our heavenly way, sweet chiming bells*

"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
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 heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swaddling 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
Goodwill henceforth from Heav'n to men
Begin and never cease
(Traditional)

Advent Creed

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see.
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator;
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Saviour of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us;
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation**
(Lisa Frenz)

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones weary of praying
Come, see what your God has done

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love
O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run
See what your God has done

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon
His promise is peace, for those who believe

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done
(Bob Kauflin/Lisa Clow)

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God in community, holy in one, you have shown us the fullness of your love in Jesus. We
join together in the words that he taught us

**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.**

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

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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!
(Traditional)

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.

Now may the peace of the Lord be with you, be with you

Now may the peace of the Lord be with you, be with you
Now and always

May the Lord bless you, May the Lord keep you
And may God's face shine upon you always
And give you peace
(Graham Kendrick)

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