

The Benefice of Groby and Ratby



St. Philip & St. James Church, Groby



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ONLINE WORSHIP FROM THE BENEFICE OF GROBY AND RATBY



LOOKING FORWARD IN HOPE

CHRISTMAS 2

*We say together the words printed in **bold**, knowing we are united across time and space in the power of Christ. Words to the hymns will appear in the online broadcast.*

Gathering to worship God

Call to Worship

God is great, loving and kind.

Praise God!

God is faithful, caring and gentle.

Praise God!

God is mighty, powerful and strong.

Praise God!

God is here; God is with us.

Praise God!

Amen.

Hymn

While Shepherds Watched

Saying sorry to God

Confession

Almighty God,

**we don't always know how we got to where we are,
and we certainly don't always know where we are going;**

**we don't always choose the right path,
and we certainly don't always follow it;**

**we don't always deal well with the struggles of life,
and we don't always give thanks for the joys of life either;**

**we don't always think of the effects that our choices
cause to others, near and far.**

**We are too often selfish,
wanting what we want no matter what the cost to others.**

**Almighty God, forgive us, reassure us
and cradle us within your forgiveness.**

Amen.

Hearing and responding to the Word of God

1st Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd

2nd Reading

Matthew 2:13-end

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Talk

Rev'd Ed

What We Believe

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

At the end

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen**

Going out to serve God

Hymn

Joy to the World

Going Out

**God of life,
may the promise of the sunrise be echoed in our minds.
May the warmth of the midday sun flow through our hearts.
May the peace of the sunset touch our souls.
And when life seems dark, teach us to remember that you are with us
and that we will again see your light.
In the name of Christ
Amen.**

Blessing

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;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you and all whom you love, and those with
whom you struggle, now and always.
Amen

Thank you to our musicians and members of the congregation for recording and editing the music during the Covid lockdowns which we still use today.

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