

Yateley Baptist Church, Christmas Day 25 December 2020

Opening Prayer

Carol: Praise! 352

Christians, awake! salute the happy morn
on which the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of his love
which hosts of angels chanted from above!
With them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate, born the virgin's son.

2 Then, to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice: 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations here on earth!
This day has God fulfilled his promised word;
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord!'

3 To Bethlehem these eager shepherds ran
to see the wonder of our God made man;
they found, with Joseph and the holy maid,
her son, the Saviour, in a manger laid.
Amazed, with joy this story they proclaim,
the first apostles of his infant fame.

4 O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind:
trace we the babe, who has retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

5 Let us, like those good shepherds, now
employ
our grateful voices to declare the joy:
Christ, who was born on this most happy day,
round all the earth his glory shall display.
Saved by his love, unceasing we shall sing,
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

John Byrom (1692-1763)

Reading: Luke 2:1-20, ESV

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Prayer

Carol: Praise! 363

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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!

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ,
while fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
where Eden's curse is found,
where Eden's curse is found,
wherever Eden's curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders, wonders of his love.

Sermon: Luke 2:1-20 – Glory to God In the Highest

Carol: Praise! 359

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die;
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

4 Come, Desire of nations, come;
make in us your humble home!
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface;
stamp your image in its place;
second Adam from above,
give us life; impart your love.

Closing Prayer