

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 20 December 2020 AM

Opening Prayer

Carol: Praise 2! 46

Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory.
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

2 Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

3 Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
incense, God is with us,
myrrh, His death will make a way,
and by His blood He'll win us.

4 Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion.
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history.

Nativity Video

Carol: Praise! 384

What kind of greatness can this be
that chose to be made small?

Exchanging untold majesty
for a world so pitiful.

That God should come as one of us,
I'll never understand.

The more I hear the story told,
the more amazed I am.

*O what else can I do
but kneel and worship you
and come just as I am,
my whole life an offering.*

Graham Kendrick

2 The One in whom we live and move
in swaddling cloths lies bound.

The voice that cried, 'Let there be light',
asleep without a sound.

The One who strode among the stars
and called each one by name,
lies helpless in a mother's arms
and must learn to walk again.

3 What greater love could he have shown
to shamed humanity,
yet human pride hates to believe
in such deep humility.

But nations now may see his grace
and know that he is near,
when his meek heart, his words, his works
are incarnate in us here.

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25, ESV

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

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(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Prayer

Carol

O what a mystery I see
What marvellous design
That God should come as one of us
A Son in David's line
Flesh of our flesh, of woman born
Our humanness he owns
and for a world of wickedness
his guiltless blood atones

2 This perfect Man, incarnate God
by selfless sacrifice
destroyed our sinful history
all fallen Adam's curse
In him the curse of blessing turns
my barren spirit flowers
as over the shattered power of sin
the cross of Jesus towers

3 By faith a child of his I stand
an heir in David's line
royal descendant by his blood
destined by Love's design
Fathers of faith, my fathers now!
Because in Christ I am
all And all God's promises in Him
to me are 'Yes, Amen'!

4 No more then as a child of earth
must I my lifetime spend –
his history, his destiny
are mine to apprehend
Oh what a Saviour, what a Lord
O Master, Brother, Friend!
What a miracle has joined me to
this life that never ends!

Graham Kendrick

Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25 – Well I Wasn't Expecting That

Carol: Praise! 365

Look to the skies, there's a celebration;
lift up your heads, join the angel song,
for our Creator becomes our Saviour,
as a baby born!

Angels amazed bow in adoration:
'Glory to God in the highest heaven!'
Send the good news out to every nation,
for our hope has come.

*Worship the King – come, see his brightness;
worship the King, his wonders tell:
Jesus our King is born today-
we welcome you, Immanuel!*

Graham Kendrick

Closing Prayer

2 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Father for ever, the Prince of peace:
there'll be no end to your rule of justice,
for it shall increase.

Light of your face, come to pierce our darkness;
joy of your heart, come to chase our gloom;
star of the morning, a new day dawning,
make our hearts your home.

3 Quietly he came as a helpless baby-
one day in power he will come again;
swift through the skies he will burst with
splendour
on the earth to reign.
Jesus, I bow at your manger lowly;
now in my life let your will be done;
live in my flesh by your Spirit holy
till your kingdom comes.