

# Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 20 December 2020 PM

## Opening 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.

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.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

### Reading: Matthew 1:18-25, ESV

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "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). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

## **Prayer**

### **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.

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.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

## **Reading: Luke 2:1-21, ESV**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup>And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## **Carol: Praise! 377**

Silent night! holy night!  
all is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin and her child:  
holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace;  
sleep in heavenly peace!

2 Silent night! holy night!  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven afar:  
heavenly hosts sing, 'Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.'

3 Silent night! holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light:  
radiant beams your holy face  
with the dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Joseph Franz Mohr (1792-1848), tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)*

## **Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 2:1-21 – The Saviour of Christmas**

## **Carol: Praise! 367**

O come, all you faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!

O come now, O come now to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,  
Light of light,  
he who was born from the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:

*John Francis Wade (1711-1786), tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation!  
Sing, all you citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God in the highest!'

4 Yes, Lord, we greet you,  
born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to you be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

## **Closing Prayer**