

# Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 27 December 2020

## Opening Prayer

### **Carol: Praise! 372**

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all;  
and his shelter was a stable  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor and meek and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And through all his perfect childhood  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heaven above:  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high:  
there his children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

## **Reading: Luke 1:39-55, ESV**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever."

## **Carol: Praise! 366**

Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,  
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;  
thrones for a manger did surrender,  
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor:  
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,  
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

2 Lord, you are God beyond all praising,  
yet, for love's sake, became a man;  
stooping so low, but sinners raising  
heavenwards by your eternal plan:  
Lord, you are God beyond all praising,  
yet, for love's sake, became a man.

*Frank Houghton (1894-1972)*

## **Prayer**

## **Carol: Praise! 346**

O come, O come, Immanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
who mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God draws near:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

3 Lord, you are love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship you;  
Immanuel, within us dwelling,  
make us and keep us pure and true:  
Lord, you are love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship you.

2 O come, O come, great Lord of might  
who long ago on Sinai's height  
gave Israel's tribes the holy law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

3 O come, true Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
to rise victorious from the grave:

*Continues on next page →*

4 O come, bright Morning Star, and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
dispel the long night's lingering gloom  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb:

5 O come, strong Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery:

*Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> Century, trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others*

## **Sermon: Luke 1:39-55 – The Magnificat**

### **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:

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:

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

## **Closing Prayer**