

# The Bride Valley Service for 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

## Second Sunday of Christmas

### Opening Words

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! *Psalms 148*

### Hymn: O come all ye faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye 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;

lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten not created;

*O come, let us adore him...*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him...*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

born this happy morning:

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing;

*O come, let us adore him...*

Translated from the Latin (18th century)

by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)

### Prayers of Penitence

God our Father, you sent your Son, full of grace and truth: Forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

### Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect: Let us pray:

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Readings

### **1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

### **Colossians 3: 12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Luke 2. 41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## Reflection

I've just bought myself a new coat. I'm hoping it will keep me warm enough on my quest to see the Northern Lights in Iceland next weekend! It's a special coat bought for a specific purpose.

You may have had new clothes recently, perhaps as a Christmas gift. It's easy for us to have suitable clothing for our lifestyle, for our expeditions – the shops are full of choice and over the years it's more of a challenge to manage the amount of clothing we have in this country. I know this by the amount of times we are being encouraged to have a capsule wardrobe, or challenged to reduce the items in our closet to 33! Has anyone here got less than 33 items of clothing? People making New Year's resolutions to clear their clothes out.

## **What we wear seems to be a focus of today's bible readings:**

The thought of Hannah, year by year, remembering how big her son had been last time, making a robe a bit bigger and allowing room for another year's growth is one of those little understood stories that you just can't forget. She has sacrificed this first son, Samuel, the long awaited for, hoped for child – a strong pointer to God's sacrifice of his own dear son too.

In contrast we have the boy Jesus, staying in the temple, learning about his heavenly Father. Showing us and his earthly parents how he is growing into his purpose here on earth.

Then Colossians tells us: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. We have a choice to make here ... we are not being told we have to be naturally good, but that we have to learn to put on goodness, as a deliberate act, out of love. And the love that makes us want to do it is given as a free gift to enable us to do so. If we are to do this with any success then we have to follow Jesus, learn what he is like. To let his word dwell in us richly and do everything in his name.

As part of God's family, we have new clothes from God. These clothes we are to wear have plenty of room for growth. Room to grow in God's likeness, to develop our Christian faith. None of us is quite big enough to fit into them properly yet because they belong to the Son of God. Yet maybe if we clothe ourselves aright, if we put them on resolutely and accept the help God offers us, each one of us, then eventually we will be transformed into his likeness.

As we begin this New year, in 2022, with all it brings us, life's joys and challenges, let us all step into our new cloak, made especially for us, for us to flourish and grow into during the year, growing closer to God in all we do and say. **Amen.**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried: he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

***Jesus displays all the signs that mark him out to be God's chosen One.***

As we gather in the presence of the almighty, all-knowing God, Let us pray:

Holy God, great Spirit of all, may the whole Church

Honour and glorify your name in our daily lives, private prayer and public worship.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

May the whole world resound with your truth, activate your compassion, and be soaked in your peace. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

May all homes and households make plenty of room for kindness and forgiveness; clear the clutter of discontent and make us more thankful. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

May all who ache with sadness or physical pain be comforted and cherished, knowing your love for them. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

May the dying be surrounded with our prayers, may those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, know the comfort of your presence. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**  
As we step into each new day may our thanks and praise give joy to you, the Living God.  
**Amen.**

**Let us pray that we may know life and hope in Jesus Christ as we say together:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done;  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: Hark! the herald-angels sing**

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye 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 the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald angels sing...*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings;  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth:

*Hark! The herald angels sing...*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Blessing:**

May God keep you in all your days. May Christ shield you in all your ways. May the Spirit bring you healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light of His love. **Amen.**

Glory to God,

**Whose power at work among us,**

**Can do infinitely more than all we can ask or conceive; to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Sources: Common Worship, New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included here, are copyright© The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002 and 2006 and published by Church House Publishing. Prayers of Intercession are adapted from Susan Sayers.*