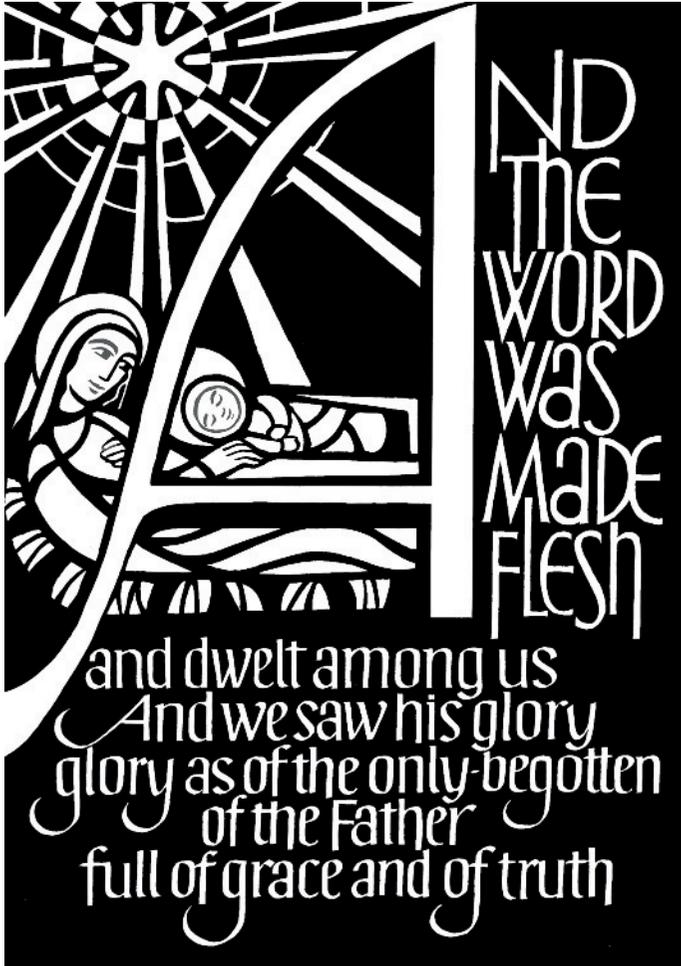


Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve 2020



Didsbury Baptist Church

ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who lived in darkness
have been given a great light.

Praise the God who hears our cries.

Our souls sing out God's praise.

God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

We shall see that light and let it shine through our lives.

BIBLE READING Isaiah 9.2-7

1

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, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 So he is our life's true pattern,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
From a baby, weak and helpless
day by day like us he grew;
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;
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895).
Public domain.*

BIBLE READING Micah 5.2-5a

PRAYER

**Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

BIBLE READING LUKE 1.26-38

2

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
'All hail,' said he, 'O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

2 'For now a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee;
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

4 Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Basque carol para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

BIBLE READING LUKE 2.1-8

3

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee to-night.

- 2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
- 3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

4

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song;

6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

5

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so gentle 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 'Alleluia,
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.

J. Mohr (1792–1848); J. F. Young (1820–85)

BIBLE READING John 1.1-14

ADDRESS

6

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle-stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you!

*Polish carol tr. Edith M G Reed (1885-1933) © Holder untraced.
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PRAYER

Loving God, whose light shines in the face of Jesus Christ:
In the darkness of sorrow and suffering,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of isolation and separation,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of fear and anxiety,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of death and loss,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of injustice and exploitation,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of poverty and hunger,
Let your light shine.
In the darkness of war and hatred,
Let your light shine.
In every place and experience of darkness,
Lord, let your light shine.
Amen.

SOLO TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO (words by Ernest Brady; music by
Elizabethe Marshall) Performed by Elizabethe Marshall

7

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:
- 3 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw near to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
'Glory to God, glory in the highest!'

*Latin, 17th century; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, altd.
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8

Hark! the herald angels sing

'Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing
'Glory to the newborn King!'

- 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
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
And may the blessing of almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you now and forever. Amen.

Worship at Didsbury Baptist

You are welcome to join us for worship this Christmas, or at other times. We will meet via Zoom tomorrow at 10.30am. In non-pandemic times we meet every Sunday at 10.30am. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we meet via Zoom. Further details and pass codes can be requested by email, zoom@didsburybaptist.org.uk or by phone 0161 434 1451.

When regulations allow, we also meet in person on the second and fourth Sundays at 3pm. This is for limited numbers and by reservation only. You can reserve a place by leaving your name and phone number on our answer phone, 0161 434 1451. We will return your call.

*If you are a visitor to the church and you would like us to keep in contact and / or send you details of upcoming events at the church, please fill in your details below and place in the offering or hand to the minister or one of the church members and we will get in touch.
Thanks.*

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ **Telephone** _____