

# St Luke's Morning Worship Christmas Day



## Call to worship

In the name of the Father, the Son  
and the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

Unto us a child is born,  
**unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.  
**We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

As we light the candles in our Advent Wreath we remember the preparations which God our Father made for the coming of his Son into the world.

*The previous Sunday's candles are lit*

Our first candle reminds us of the patriarchs who looked forward to the coming of Jesus. Our second candle reminds us of the prophets who told of the coming messiah. Our third candle reminds us of John the Baptist who came to prepare the way for the Lord. Our fourth candle reminds us of Mary who was obedient and became the mother of Jesus.

*The centre candle is lit*

God our Father, today the saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world.

**Amen.**

Today is Christmas day: on this special day we light the last candle and rejoice together:

Lord Jesus, Light of Light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in the world.  
Glory to God in the highest. **Amen.**

## Carol: O Come All ye Faithful

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!

God from true God, and  
Light from Light eternal,  
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!  
Only-begotten Son of God the Father....

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*(attributed to): John Francis Wade;  
Translator: Frederick Oakeley (1841)*



## Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Isaiah 9: 2-7 and Luke 2: 1-14

## Carol: Ding Dong Merrily on High

Ding dong merrily on high,  
In heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*G R Woodward*



## Reflection by Rev Greg Hoyland

### Affirmation of faith

We declare our faith together.  
**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers

The prayers conclude with  
Holy God,  
**hear our prayer**

Gathering our prayers and praise into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us

**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 forever.**  
**Amen.**

## Carol Hark the Herald Angels Sing:

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

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 th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"



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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Charles Wesley (1739)

## Conclusion

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires  
with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ  
brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May this Christmas morning make us happy to be  
Your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our  
beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.  
**Amen.**

*A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson*

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon us his children.  
**Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into  
one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill us with joy and peace.  
**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary  
became the God-bearer, give us grace to carry the  
good news of Christ.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain  
with us always  
**Amen**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.**  
And we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
**full of grace and truth.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.**



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