



Church@Home  
**20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
Advent 4, Year B

**Song: TAC60 “O come all ye faithful”**

<https://youtu.be/Y3egGjeiWEA>

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful & 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 of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin’s womb;  
Very God.  
Begotten, not created:**

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee to be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

*Words: Latin hymn pre 18<sup>th</sup> cent  
Ar Frederick Oadeley 1802-1880 (1852)  
Music: Asc J F Wade*

**WELCOME**

**WE GREET EACH OTHER**

**IN THE NAME...**

**Song: TAC63 “O Holy Night”**

<https://youtu.be/oOiEtZwP1H0>

**O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love, and his Gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

*Words: John S Dwight 1813-1893*

*Music: Adolphe Adam 1803-1856*

*In the public domain*

## **WE CONFESS, GOD FORGIVES**

**Gracious God and Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not recognised you as the owner and giver of all things.**

**We have not always been content with what you have given us, nor have we been eager to advance the cause of others. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus who gave himself so freely for us.**

**By your Holy Spirit, give us a generous heart and joy in serving our neighbour. Amen.**

### Absolution based on Psalm 51:

God has shown mercy to you. He gave His only Son to die for you. God has forgiven your sins. For Jesus' sake, He has washed you clean and made your hearts pure. May God's peace be with you always.

**Amen.**

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Luke 2:8 – 20  
“The outreach of the shepherds”  
*The values of Christmas: outreach (4)*

**BIBLE READING:** Luke 2:8 – 20

**CHILDREN'S ADDRESS:** “Shepherds Visit” from  
The Beginner's Bible

- \* Well, it's nearly Christmas!! What do you like about Christmas? *Presents, Santa Claus, Christmas trees, plenty of food, fun times.*

What's the real reason for Christmas, though?  
*It is the birthday of Jesus, God's Son.*

- \* I love hearing the story of the Shepherds and the angels, because it is a story that reminds us that the birth of Jesus is a time of joy and celebration, a joy that spills over in telling others what Christmas is all about....
- \* This morning, I want to read to you another one of the stories in THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE called “Shepherds visit *baby Jesus*”. It's a story that reminds us of the joy the shepherds felt when they saw the baby Jesus, a joy that expressed itself in telling everyone what they had seen and heard.

*Read the story from THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE entitled “Shepherds visit”, or view from YouTube: <https://youtu.be/vs4SQP9QSXE>*

\* What do you like about this story?

I like:

#The message of the angel to the Shepherds: “So not be afraid. I bring **joyful news** to all people. Today in the town of Bethlehem, a **Saviour** has been born! He is lying in a manger.

Do you think that it is “joyful news” that Jesus was born for us? *I do! Without Jesus, we wouldn't know how much God loves us, and we wouldn't have a Saviour from our sins (point to the cross).*

- The fact that **the Shepherds tell everyone the good news that “a Saviour” has been born.**
- Do you tell your friends what Christmas is all about? *Some people don't know what Christmas is all about, and unless we tell them, they won't know....*

\* Let's now sing about the good news of Christmas: that it is birth of Jesus, our Saviour...

## **CHILDREN'S SONG:**

“Jesus saves” by Colin Buchanan

<https://youtu.be/UuW20ke2hgE?t=21>

### **LYRICS:**

**The world belongs to God  
He spoke and there it was  
Though it was very good  
It all went bad because  
The man that God had made  
And the woman there with him  
Turned their backs on God to get  
A deadly taste of sin, but...**

**Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Jesus is the way  
Jesus is the savior you can come to him today  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
People from their sin  
You will find forgiveness  
When you put your trust in him**

Well, if you look around  
You will see how sin has spread  
Turning light to dark  
And living things to dead  
But God still rules the world  
He always had a plan  
To send his son to save us in the likeness of a man

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Jesus is the way  
Jesus is the savior you can come to him today  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
People from their sin  
You will find forgiveness  
When you put your trust in him  
Well if you come to God  
You still have time you know  
He will wash your sinful heart  
And make it white as snow  
Come taste eternal life  
And death will have no sting  
All who trust in Jesus are the children of the king

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Jesus is the way  
Jesus is the savior you can come to him today  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
People from their sin  
You will find forgiveness  
When you put your trust in him

## **CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

**SONG: LH624 “While shepherds watched”**

<https://youtu.be/oyzsk1VVTMs>

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not’, said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.**

**‘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:**

**‘The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed.  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.’**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith—  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus—  
Addressed their joyful song:**

**‘All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.’**

*Words: Nahum Tate 1652-1715  
Music: T Este’s Psalter 1592*

**MESSAGE:** Luke 2:8 – 20  
“The outreach of the shepherds”  
*The values of Christmas: outreach (4)*

Click [HERE](#) to view the message on YouTube

**SONG: TAC34 “Hark! The herald angels sing”**

<https://youtu.be/PJlwMcjYTRw>

**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.***

**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!**

**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 the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.**

*Note:*

This YouTube link does not have the lyrics inserted.

You may like to minimise your browser (playing YouTube link) to make the screen smaller, so you can then refer to the words here on the service order while listening to the song.

*Revised by George Whitefield (1714-1770)  
Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others  
Music: F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847 (1840)  
ad W H Cummings 1831-1915 (1856)*

## **PRAYER OF GOD'S**

### *Call to prayer*

Our Lord remembers the promises he makes to his people, and does great things for those who call on his name. Let us pray to our Father in heaven, confident that he will hear our prayers and act in his loving mercy.

### *The regular response, OR:*

Lord God, in your mercy,  
**let your will be done.**

### *Suggested intercessions*

- \* for the church, that it may invest in time and resources in building the true temple of God, his people
- \* for those who are caught up in the material preparations for Christmas
- \* for safe travel for those going on holidays
- \* for expecting mothers (and fathers), for mothers who have lost children, and for women/couples who want a child but have not been able to have one
- \* for adoption agencies, orphanages, and those who take care of children

### *Concluding prayer*

Just as Mary heard your word, trusted you, and bore the fruit of your Spirit, lead us to hear your word and trust you, so that we may live fruitful lives, filled with the joy of your Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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 forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

### **SONG: "Glory to God"**

<https://youtu.be/NMj7Aprgvjk>

**Let the earth rejoice,  
Heaven comes to you.  
While the city sleeps  
A child is born.**

**Drive away the fear  
For your Saviour has come.  
He lies in a bed  
Made of straw.**

**La la la la la la la.  
La la la la.  
La la la la la la la.  
La la la la.**

**Let the earth rejoice,  
Heaven comes to you.  
While the city sleeps  
A child is born.**

**Drive away the fear  
For your Saviour has come.  
He lies in a bed  
Made of straw.**

**La la la la la la la.  
La la la la.  
La la la la la la la.  
La la la la.**

**Glory to,  
Glory to God  
In the highest,  
Glory to,  
Glory to God  
In the highest.**

**Glory Glory  
Glory Glory  
In the highest.**

**Glory to,  
Glory to God  
In the highest,  
Glory to,  
Glory to God  
In the highest.  
Glory Glory  
Glory Glory  
In the highest.**

*Words & Music: Reuben Morgan/Hillsong Publishing  
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