



**Worship at Home:
A Service of Lessons and Carols with Christian Aid
22nd December 2020**

HYMN

Once in Royal David's city

Sung by St Martin's Voices, with soloist Victoria Meteyard

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.

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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly Maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

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;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)
Tune: Gauntlett*

WELCOME

Chine McDonald, Head of Media & PR for Christian Aid

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace. As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then, so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

All **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.
And 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.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting,
now and at all times.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

O come, O come Emmanuel

Sung by St Martin's Voices

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah Chapter 23. Verses 5-6

Read by Bob Kikuyu,

Christian Aid's global theology adviser, based in Kenya

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

EVERYDAY FAITH REFLECTION

*On Everyday Faith, given by Bob Kikuyu,
Christian Aid's global theology adviser, based in Kenya*

HYMN

A great and mighty wonder

Sung by St Martin's Voices

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure,
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'*

The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high.
And Cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.
Refrain

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all he is adored,
the Infant born in Bethl'em,
the Saviour and the Lord.
Refrain

And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield his sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.

*Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'*

*Words: Mega Kai paradoxon thauma Germanus (c.634-c.732)
Translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

Tune: Es Ist Ein Ros

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah Chapter 9, Verses 2,6

*Read by Marianna Leite, Dr Marianna Leite,
Global Lead, Gender & Inequality at Christian Aid, Brazil*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Unto us is born a Son

Sung by the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Becradled in the manger,
Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory.

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro;
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

Words: 15th Century
Tune: For unto us

THIRD LESSON

Luke Chapter 2. Verses 8-20

Read by Wendy Lloyd, Faith Communications & Just Scripture co-ordinator at Christian Aid

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you Good News of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION 2

Everyday Faith

Given by Wendy Lloyd, Faith Communications & Just Scripture co-ordinator at Christian Aid

CHOIR

The Shepherd's Carol

Sung by St Martin's Voices

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves,
We give to your son.

*Words: Clive Sansom (1910-1981)
Music: Bob Chilcott*

SERMON

The Rt Rev Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid

CAROL

Silent night

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Words: John Freeman Young (1887), based on Joseph Mohr (1818)
Tune: Stille Nacht, Trad arr*

PRAYERS

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you, that with the blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints and
angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept. The officiant prays the Collect:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the Godbearer,
give us grace to carry the Good News of Christ.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.

All: Amen.

CAROL

Hark! The herald angels sing

Sung by St Martin's Voices

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 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
Glory to the new-born King!

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 new-born King!"

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Mendelssohn

Acknowledgments

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With thanks to Bob Kikuyu, Christian Aid's global theology adviser, based in Kenya. Wendy Lloyd, Faith Communications & Just Scripture co-ordinator at Christian Aid. Dr Marianna Leite - Global Lead, Gender & Inequality at Christian Aid, Brazil. The Rt Rev Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Esther Rose Bevan.

Music by the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields, and St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis.

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