

# Welcome to our Morning Service Sunday 20th December 2020

Luke 1:57-80 - Time to sing again

Welcome: David Horrocks

#### Song:

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; Let men their songs employ. Let fields and flowers, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, and wonders of His love.

> George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts © Public Domain

#### Confession:

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to change what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may act justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

## Advent week 4 A Ruler from Bethlehem



'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.'

Micah 5:2

#### Psalm 97

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.
- <sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.
- <sup>4</sup> His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.
- <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.
- <sup>7</sup> All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols – worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, Lord .
- <sup>9</sup> For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup> Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

Prayers: Lisa Horrocks

## Children and leaders leave for Sunday Club

#### Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

### Reading: Luke 1:57-80 - Nick Hands

- <sup>57</sup>When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.
- <sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'
- 61 They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'
- 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.
- <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.' <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him.
- <sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
- 68 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
- <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David
- <sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

- 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us —
- <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,
- the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
- 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear
- in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
- <sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
- 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
- <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
- <sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.'
- 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

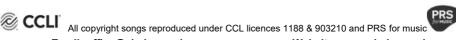
Sermon: 'Time to sing again' - Julian Bidgood

### Song:

- <sup>1</sup> It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: 'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men From heaven's all gracious King!' The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- <sup>2</sup> Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world: Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet with woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long, Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring: O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.
- <sup>4</sup> For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling, And all the world send back the song Which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears Richard Storrs Willis
© Public Domain

## **Final Prayer**



Email: office@abch.org.uk Website: www.abch.org.uk