



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
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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

- ¹ The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- ² Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- ³ Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- ⁴ His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.

- ⁷ 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 .
- ⁹ For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- ¹² 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

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'

⁶¹They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'

⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.'⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him.

⁶⁷His 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.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

continued...

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us –
⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
 and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ 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
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ 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,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
 by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹ 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:

¹ 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.

² 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 blessed angels sing.

³ 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.

⁴ 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
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Final Prayer



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