



Sunday 6th December 2020

This short act of worship has whilst we are unable to use invite you to spend a few other people are sharing this act



been prepared for you to use Methodist Church premises. We moments with God, knowing that of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Come, let us rejoice before God. Let us honour the name of the Most High. God has looked on us, and brought us to be a people of light celebrating the light. Our souls magnify God: blessed is the name of God who gives us hope. Let us lift up holy hands and be glad.

Amen.

Hymn: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*
(Singing the Faith 169)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Those living in the land of deep
darkness a light has dawned.

The light grows gradually brighter as
we move through Advent together.

The candle of hope already burns
bright. Today, we light the candle of
Preparation.

(light candle)



The coming
Christ desires us
all to thrive, patiently wanting us to
turn from the ways of sin and death.
As we wait for the coming of the day
of God, we want to be ready.

Seeking a straight path, we light this
candle to guide our steps. Together,
we prepare the way and strive to
lead lives of holiness, goodness, and
peace.

Hymn See Amid the Winter Snow

(Singing the Faith 215-verse 2)

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim!

*Hail, the ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemptions happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

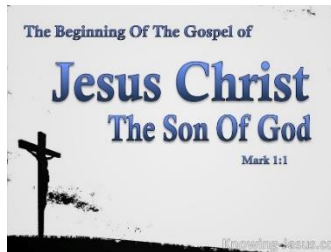
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep
darkness a light has dawned.
⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and the
government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the greatness of his overnment and
peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.



ISAIAH 9:2



Today's Gospel Reading:

Mark 1:1-8

**The beginning of the good news of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

**As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,**

**who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:**

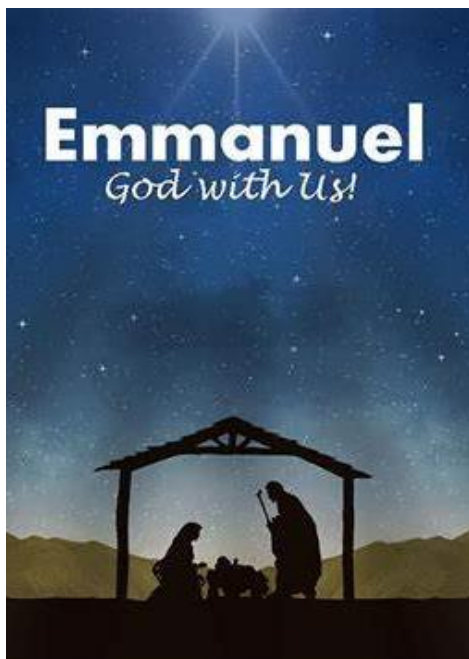
**"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',
John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of
sins. And people from the whole
Judean countryside and all the people
of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John
was clothed with camel's hair, with a
leather belt around his waist, and he
ate locusts and wild honey. He
proclaimed, 'The one who is more
powerful than I is coming after me; I
am not worthy to stoop down and
untie the thong of his sandals. I have
baptized you with water; but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'**

Time to Reflect

**GOD
IS WITH
US**

During this season the Methodist Church is proclaiming

“God is with us”. God is with us is more than a statement. It’s a reminder that God is always with us. We are encouraged to share our story (and other people's stories) of walking with God in this extraordinary year. How might you share how God has been with you this week? Find out more here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/christmas/>



A time of prayer

After each bidding, the response is:
Lord, we pray.

For those who have waited for years for the dawn...

Lord, we pray.

For those for whom hope seems dim...

Lord, we pray.

For those whose morning brought the unexpected...

Lord, we pray.

For those struggling to adjust to new realities...

Lord, we pray.

For those whose fires have grown dim...

Lord, we pray.

For those who are ignoring the signs of the times...

Lord, we pray.

For those who are struggling to keep awake...

Lord, we pray.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Long ago, Prophets knew
(Singing the Faith 178)

1. Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

2. God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Chorus

3. Mary hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected,
Chorus

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
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A prayer of blessing

Christ Jesus, the Light of the world,
shine upon us; Christ Jesus, the
Prince of Peace, fill our life with his
peace; Christ Jesus, gift of the
Father's love, set our heart ablaze
with hope; and the blessing of God –
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with
us and all we love and pray for, now
and always. Amen.

Original Materials by Rev Godfrey Nicholson
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The Big Church Sing Christmas
Special was broadcast live on the
Methodist Church's YouTube
channel on Sunday 29 November.
Have you seen it yet? If you have
access to the internet go to
<https://www.youtube.com/methodistchurch>

