

The Methodist Church 

**South Warwickshire
Circuit**

Drive-In Carols

Saturday 19th December 2020

&

Sunday 20th December 2020

Welcome to this traditional service for the Christmas season. We hope this will help you to prepare yourself for the celebration of the coming of God in the Christ-child.

Welcome & Call to Worship

Carol: StF 214 – Once in royal David's City

**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.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;**

**and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hands on high;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

C.F. Alexander (1818-95)

*Reading Isaiah 7:13-14; 9:2, 6-7
(NRSVA)*

¹³Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

*Carol: StF 180 – O Come, O Come
Immanuel*

**O come, O come, Immanuel
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from the depths of hell thy people
save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and
cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to
flight:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*Latin Advent Antiphons
tr. J.M. Neale (1818-66)*

Reading Luke 1:26-38 (NRSVA)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you

will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Carol: StF 187 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as
flame;
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden
Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.’
Gloria!**

**‘For known a blessed Mother thou
shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,**

**Thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers
foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.’
Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her
head,
‘To me, be as it pleaseth God,’ she
said,
‘My soul shall laud and magnify his
holy name’:
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!**

**Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas
morn,
And Christian folk throughout the
world will ever say:
‘Most highly favoured lady.’
Gloria!**

*Ancient Basque Carol
Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 – 1924)*

Reading Luke 2:1-7 (NRSVA)

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to

be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol: StF 213 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth!
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,**

**where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

Phillips Brooks (1835 – 1893)

Poem It was to older folk *John L Bell*

Carol: StF 193 – Born in the Night

**Born in the night,
Mary's Child;
a long way from your home;
coming in need,
Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room**

**Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world,
Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

**Truth of our life,
Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true,
Mary's Child,
go to your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
Walk in our streets again.**

*Geoffrey Ainger (b1925)
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Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ*

Reading Luke 2:8-20 (NRSVA)

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favours!'
¹⁵When 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Carol: StF 221 – While shepherds
watched their flocks by night*

**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
has seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.**

**'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 swaddling**

bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, and thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to
earth
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652 – 1715)

Prayers for Peace

The 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 our sins
as we forgive those who sin against
us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power and the
glory
are yours, now and forever
Amen

Carol: StF 212 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and 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:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!*

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!*

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our hearts' oblations:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,*

***O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!***

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God,
in the highest:'

***O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord!***

*Latin, 19th Century, possibly by
John Francis Wade (c1711 – 1786)
and others*

Benediction

*Carol: StF 202 – Hark the Herald-Angels
Sing*

**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 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 Sun 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)

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Hymn Words:

StF 214 – Once in royal David’s City

C.F. Alexander (1818-95)

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StF 180 – O Come, O Come Immanuel

Latin Advent Antiphons

tr. J.M. Neale (1818-66)

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StF 187 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

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StF 193 – Born in the Night

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