



A SERVICE TO REMEMBER

AND GIVE THANKS FOR

THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS

(especially for children and their families)



St George's Anglican Church
Malvern

5:00 p.m.

WELCOME

You are very welcome here this evening.

You have come here because people who love and care for you think it is important that you understand the story of why we celebrate Christmas, and say "Merry Christmas" to everyone at this time of the year; and give and receive presents.

You will hear the story of the first ever Christmas in this service. And you will also hear why it is that, ever since that night so long ago, people have thought it is important to remember it.

It is called "Christmas" because it is named after someone who came to be known as Jesus, the Christ. The church teaches us that Jesus was God's Son, and that he came to show how much God loves all creatures on earth - including you, your family and friends, and your pets. It was God's great gift to us, and that's why people started giving each other gifts, or presents, at Christmas.

We are here to thank God for his gift to us again. But we hope tonight will make us all remember that we also need to thank those who take care of us, are kind to us, make us feel loved. As well as saying thank you to God for his gift of Jesus, make sure you keep saying thank you to all those who love you. That's how you LIVE Christmas all year.

CATHERING

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;
Jesus is our King.

As a candle is lit

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
Jesus is our Way.

With Jesus even dark places are light;
Jesus is the Truth.

In Jesus we shall live for ever:
Jesus is our Life.

The Prophets see that Jesus will come

A reading from Isaiah

We now sing those words:

Unto us a child is born!
King of all creation.
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem

A reading from Luke's gospel

While Mary, Joseph and the baby are placed around the stable, we sing:

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.

Once all is in place, we sing:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask you to stay,
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

The Shepherds hear “good news”

Another reading from Luke's gospel

While we place the shepherds around the crib, we sing:

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!”

When they are all in place, we sing:

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
Had seized their troubled mind):
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you, and all mankind.

'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 swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to earth
Begin and never cease.'

Prayer of Penitence

**God, our loving Father,
we are sorry for the things we do and say and think
which make you sad,
and for not thinking of others before ourselves.
Please forgive us, and help us to love you and other people
more and more.
Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers are offered

Brief prayers will be offered. At the end of each prayer, we say:

Lord Jesus,
hear our prayer.

At the end, Father Gregory says:

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.

All say: Amen.

We all pray together:

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.
And forgive us 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.

BLESSING

Father Gregory will pronounce God's blessing on all of us.

Then we all say: **Amen.**

We sing:

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
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 sadnees,
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 hand on high,
Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

**Everyone at St George's Malvern wishes you
and all whom you love**

a very Happy Christmas

**and every blessing for this joyful season and
2024!**