

Morning Prayer in Advent 2020

Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine

Opening music – ‘While shepherds watched’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgYzJDxxzN8&ab_channel=quintus

**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
the 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 men
begin and never cease."**

The Greeting

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

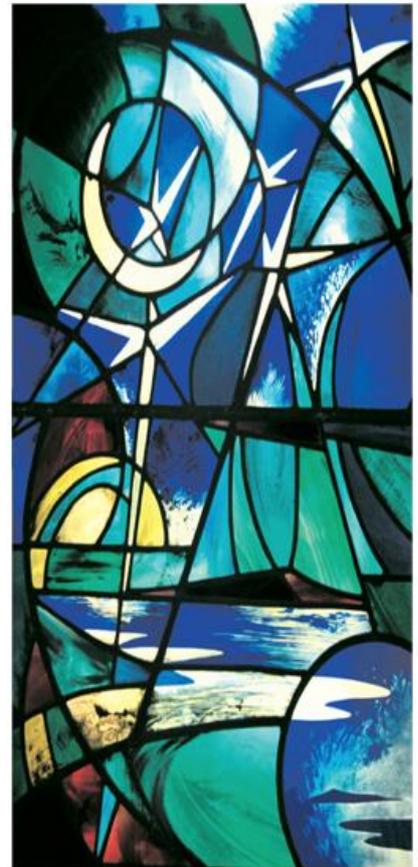
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open
before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.



Confession

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

The Readings

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

⁷Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:

Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me, your throne shall be established forever.



After the first reading:

This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Luke 1.26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³² He 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The 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. ³⁶ And 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then 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.

After the second reading:

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,
for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Time of Reflection

Hymn - 'In the Bleak Midwinter'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0aL9rKJPr4&ab_channel=drwestbury

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, (1830-1894) ©2013 Compilation, Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd.

Prayers ending with the Collect and the Lord's prayer

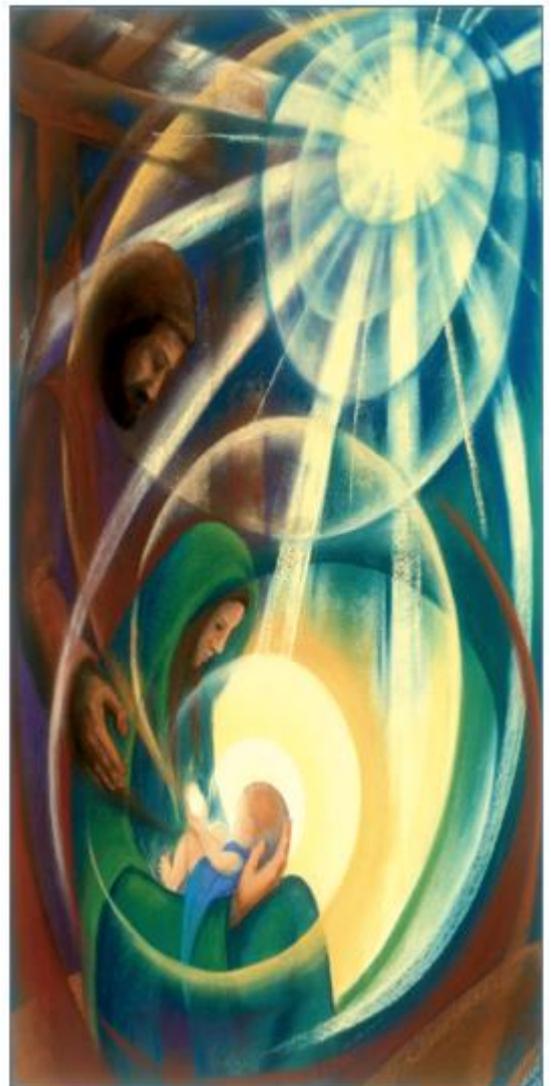
With the response:

Lord, hear us,
Lord graciously hear us.

The Collect for the day is read

Ending with:

**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 us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, ever more,
Amen.**

Closing music – ‘The first Nowell’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mItWsC8RtM&ab_channel=spiritdei

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

***Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!***

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

Nowell, nowell, nowell ...

**And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Nowell, nowell, nowell ...

**This star drew nigh to the North-West;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right o'er the place where Jesus lay.**

Nowell, nowell, nowell ...

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.**

Nowell, nowell, nowell ...

Cornish Carol, possibly 18th Century © www.jubilate.co.uk.

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