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Christmas 2020



For  
unto  
you is  
born this  
day in the  
city of David  
a saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.  
Luke  
2:11

Wishing you joy and peace  
this Christmas

Shout for joy  
the whole earth,  
and everything within.

Rejoice!

For Light has come into the world

The mountains sing,  
the seas resound  
to the praise of your name.

Salvation  
once promised is here on earth

The angels' song  
rings in the air,  
a child has been born.

Hallelujah!

The Saviour of the world is here

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## O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come all ye faithful  
joyful and triumphant  
Oh come ye O come ye  
to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
born the King of angels;  
O come let us adore him  
Christ the Lord.
2. 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  
Christ the Lord.
3. 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,  
Christ the Lord.

*(on Christmas morning)*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

**The Readings for the 9.30pm-  
'Midnight in Bethlehem Service are  
Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2.11-  
14 and Luke 2:1-20**

**Luke 2.1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And 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. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in

a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' <sup>15</sup> When 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.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**The Readings for Christmas Day are  
Hebrews 1:1-14, Isaiah 52.7-10 and  
Psalm 98 and John 1:1-14**

**John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. <sup>4</sup> What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **Christmas Thought for the Day** **By Rev Sue**

Happy Christmas! Over the last few weeks we have all had to contemplate the idea that Christmas could effectively be cancelled this year and that got me thinking. What if someone had decided to cancel that first Christmas? Or to put it another way, what did Christ leave behind?  
He didn't leave behind anything physical. We don't have any contemporary pictures of him.

### **Christmas Thought for the Day** **continued...**

We don't have any manuscripts written by him. We don't even have any artefacts.  
There is no body – because of course if there was we would have to re-examine the whole basis of Christianity! What Christ left behind is of far more importance than anything we can handle, visit, or put in a museum. What he left behind is described in our reading from John's gospel:  
*"The light shines in the darkness."*  
Sometimes a light shining into dark places is not welcome, but when the things which are contrary to God's good plans for us are brought to light that is the first step of bringing about change for the better.

But most of the time, light is welcome. It dispels the darkness – even the tiniest flame will shine brightly on the darkest night. It comforts us and relieves our fear.

It shows us the way. The light of Christ - his teaching, his character, guides us in the way we should follow.

Light is what makes things grow. When we allow the light of Christ into our lives, we grow to be more like him. The second thing John tells us he gave us by being in this world is that 'to all who received him, all who believed in his name he gave the power to become children of God.'

## Christmas Thought for the Day Continued...

You and everyone else are a precious child of God. Loved by not for what they have achieved in worldly terms, but for who they are in their own unique way.

Once we know Jesus and believe in him we are blessed not only with the knowledge and certainty of that love in this world and for eternity, but by the prospect of being transformed into the person who we were created to be, as we follow Jesus and co-operate with the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

Those two things which Jesus brought into the world, Christ's light, and love, our place as children of God combine to bring us hope; hope for the situations we find ourselves in now and hope for the future.

Those things mean that as a result of that first Christmas, however low key our celebrations have to be, Christmas can *never* be cancelled.

## A Prayer to say as you light your Christmas Candle:

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
King of Peace; to you be praise  
and glory for ever!

The new light of your incarnate word  
Gives gladness in our sorrow,  
And a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,  
Until they overflow  
with gladness and praise.

Blessed be God forever. Amen

## Prayers of Intercession

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save.

Wonderful Counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help your church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the spirit of truth. We pray especially for those preparing to move to new places including +Christopher and give thanks for their ministries.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations as they make far reaching decisions for us all and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, especially those who are finding current arrangements overwhelming, bless our families and renew our communities.



Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer, in body, mind or spirit, your gift of wholeness and peace. We name.... We pray too for those who continue to work as keyworkers through lockdowns and holidays to ensure we are never without necessities and care.

Eternal God, we commend to you those who have died and those who are left to mourn. Bring your peace and love to their devastated lives.

Let us entrust the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God, in the name of Jesus, our Saviour through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**RIP Anniversaries:** Barry Lowe (Sat), Kurt Johann Sr (Thu), Aubrey Cotton, (Fri), John Palmer, Ian Card, Joy Harrison (Sat).

### **Notices and Information**

Pray for Ryde has now resumed the original pattern of prayers on zoom on Monday evenings only at 7pm and a short united service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 7pm (the next being 27<sup>th</sup> Dec) The link if you would like to join us is:

<https://zoom.us/j/96569728174?pwd=eVBXckx5RE1pU0I3Y3FnWXBwZGRidz09>

For health and safety reasons we regret that St John's church building is currently closed for public worship. Please check our facebook page and website for up to date information

**Please note. There will be NO 10am service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December.**

Sunday services are usually held in Oakfield school. Entry is via the school car park, accessed from the bottom of Malborough Road.

The car park is available for our use.

Please keep to the paths and follow social distancing guidelines. Tier 1 Covid guidelines require us to wear a mask indoors, to use the hand sanitiser provided and to complete a Track and Trace register.

The 'rule of 6' still applies.

**Midweek (Thursday) Communion** will take place in the **Church Hall at 10.30am** with the same guideline requirements

The Parish Office is closed for  
Christmas, however

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[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Follow us on facebook for up to date  
information:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsryde>

**"I will honour  
Christmas in my  
heart, and try to  
keep it all the  
year."**

*– Charles Dickens,  
A Christmas Carol*

### Online services

You can share in a service of **Spiritual  
Communion from All Saints Ryde** on  
their website here:

<https://www.rydeallsaints.org.uk/>

This is a pre-recorded service and is  
available from 9am on a Sunday.

or join **Portsmouth Cathedral** live on  
Sunday at various times

<https://www.facebook.com/portsmouthcathedral/>



**Weekly News Sheet:** Please send any items for the news sheet to Bevaly Rackett by **Wed 2pm.**

Tel: 407432 email: [stjohnsryde@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsryde@gmail.com)

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# CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

All services (except 10.30am Christmas Eve)  
in Oakfield School Hall

## Christmas Eve

**10.30am Communion** - in the Church Hall

**4pm Nativity Creativity\***

Come and make a nativity scene to take home as we recall the story of the first Christmas. The seating for this service will be arranged in family 'bubbles'

**9.30pm "Midnight in Bethlehem" \***

Come and celebrate the coming of Christmas Day at the time it will be celebrated in Bethlehem

## Christmas Day

**10am Christmas Communion Service**

It is possible that plans may have to change, so check on



'St John's and Holy Trinity Ryde' @stjohnsryde

or

Look us up on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**\* These will require (free) pre-booking** – contact us on

617174 or [stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchryde@gmail.com)

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL**