



The Saviour is Foretold

“And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”
(Luke 1:30-31)

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation. (Isa 12:2)

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.** (Isa 12:5)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts to me.
My heart cries out and even faints,
the courts of God to see.
The sparrow finds a place to nest,
beside your throne of grace.
Oh how I long to find my rest,
and dwell with you always.

A pilgrim now for all my days,
my gaze is set above.
The desert blooms with autumn rains,
You bless the ones you love.

Your people go from
strength to strength,
until we see your face.
Your eyes are turned to us in love,
You hear us when we pray.

I'd rather live for just one day
and gaze upon my Lord.
Than spend a lifetime far away
from where your praise is heard.
There's no good thing you will withhold,
from those who follow you,
O Lord my sun and mighty shield
my soul will trust in you.

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Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.*

*If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Have mercy on us, O God

According to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)

Assurance of Pardon

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Psalm 103 (b)

As far as east is from the west,
So far his love has borne away
Our many sins and trespasses
And all the guilt that on us lay.
Just as a father loves his child,
So God loves those who fear his name.
For he remembers we are dust,
And well he knows our feeble frame.

Each human life is like the grass,
And like a meadow flower it grows.
Its place will never be recalled
Once over it the tempest blows.
But everlasting is God's love
For those who fear him, and their seed—
For those who keep his covenant,
And carefully his precepts heed.

God's kingly rule is over all;
In heaven he has set his throne.
O you his angels, praise the LORD,
Strong ones by whom his will is done.
O praise the LORD, you heavenly hosts,
His servants who perform his word.
Praise God, his works
throughout his realm,
And you, my soul, O praise the LORD!

Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

**There on the poplars we hung our
harps, for there our captors asked us
for songs, our tormentors demanded
songs of joy; they said,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?**

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my
mouth if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

**Remember, Lord, what the Edomites
did on the day Jerusalem fell.**

**“Tear it down,” they cried,
“tear it down to its foundations!”**

Daughter Babylon, doomed to
destruction, happy is the one who
repays you according to what you have
done to us.

**Happy is the one who seizes your
infants and dashes them against the
rocks.**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.**

Amen.

God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7, p. 573

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Luke 1:24-38, p. 855

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Saviour is Foretold (Nick Windust)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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 Thy own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone,
By Thy all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1744)

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever,**

Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

<i>IN THE WEEK</i>		
Thu 15th Dec	Prayer Meeting	7.15pm at church.
Sat 17th Dec	Carol Service (5pm)	Guests very welcome - invites on the Welcome Desk.
Sun 18th Dec	Morning Worship	The Messenger Arrives (Luke 1:57-80).
<i>FURTHER AHEAD</i>		
Tue 20th Dec	Tots & Toys	Volunteers appreciated (Welcoming).

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV); CCLI No: 731672.