**Christmas Day 2020**

Introduction & welcome:

For 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.

*Carol: O come, all ye faithful!*

Gathering

This is the day we have been waiting for throughout Advent.

**Glory to God!**

This is the day: we anticipated that things would be different.

**Glory to God!**

This is the day: we have longed for and pinned our hopes on.

**Glory to God!**

This is the day: we have come to celebrate and sing and pray.

**Glory to God!**

This is the day: we have come, awestruck and struggling for words. **Glory to God!**

This is the day: we have come, ourselves, to worship.

**Glory to God! Amen.**

A prayer of confession:

Lord God, we have heard of your light, as your prophets bore witness.

We have confessed your Son, Jesus Christ, as the light of the world.

Yet, although we were made through him,

**we have sometimes failed to recognize him.**

When he came to us, who belong to him,

**we have sometimes failed to receive him.**

Although we are your children,

**we have sometimes behaved as if we were not born of God.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, who came to bring grace and truth,

pardon and forgive us, confirm and strengthen us in goodness,

and keep us in everlasting life. **Amen**

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect:Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

**Old Testament reading:** *Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

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

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of thanksgiving

Thank you for our homes;

please help us to remember those who have nowhere to live.

Let us rejoice and say,

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

Thank you for people who care for us;

please show us how we can care for others too.

Let us rejoice and say,

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

Thank you for people who tell others about Jesus; please help us to talk about you to our friends.

Let us rejoice and say,

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

Thank you that you care for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Let us rejoice and say,

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Amen.**

Gospel: *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

*Carol: Hark! The herald angels sing*

Prayers of intercession**:**

*You may like to join me in lighting a candle as a silent symbol of our prayers for the church, the world, and all God’s people in need of his light.*

May the glory of the Lord shine upon us and scatter the darkness from before our path,

that we may ever walk in his light. **Amen**

A prayer for all ages

A prayer of praise Mary had a baby boy, **God is with us**.

Born in a stable in Bethlehem, **God is with us.**

Joseph gave him the name Jesus, **God is with us.**

Angels appeared to the shepherds, **God is with us.**

They ran to see Jesus in Bethlehem, **God is with us.**

Thank you, God, for Jesus, **God is with us.**

Jesus is with us every day, **God is with us.**

Thank you, God, for Christmas Day, **God is with us**.

We are glad and rejoice because you lived among us in Jesus: **Amen.**

We pray together as Jesus taught us, **Our Father…**

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

The Blessing:

May the obedience of Mary & Joseph, the humility of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wise men and the joy of the Christ Child be God’s gift to you this Christmas, and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Carol: In the bleak midwinter*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Amen**