

Hymn Sheet for Sunday 28th December 2025 Led by Julie Payne

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn MP 588

Christians awake! salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of mankind was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate, and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations upon earth:
this day hath God fulfilled His promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir,
in hymns of joy unknown before conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
'On earth be peace, and unto men goodwill.'

To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man;
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn;
amazed, the wondrous tidings they proclaim,
the first apostles of His infant fame.

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Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn MP588

See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail,
redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
 sits amid the cherubim.

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
 what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light:
angels singing, 'Peace on earth'
 told us of the Saviour's birth.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Teach, O teach us, holy child,
by Thy face so meek and mild,
 teach us to resemble Thee
 in Thy sweet humility.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 Sing through all Jerusalem,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Reading – Jeremiah 31 v 15

Introduction to the Sermon

Reading – Matthew 2 v 1 – 18

Hymn MP714

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came He to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was He
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that He all men surpasses,
that He all men surpasses.

(Men)

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A Prince,' he said, 'in Jewry'
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlehem in his fury,
at Bethlehem in his fury.

(Ladies)

Now may Mary's Son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.

Alpha and Omega He!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder,
doth rend the air asunder!

Sermon

Offertory

Hymn

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Now come the wisemen from out of the Orient land....

The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friends.
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Intercessions

Hymn MP211

Hark! the herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.'

Joyful, all you nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Benediction and Grace

Exit Music: Chorale Prelude 'In dir ist Freude' by J S Bach