

St Matthew's – All Age Worship

10.45am Sunday 1st December 2024 (Advent 1)

Down to Earth – the unexpected Rescue

Welcome to St Matthew's. Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. Today's service is an All Age Worship service which means the children will be in church for the whole service. The service will last about an hour. If those with children would like to sit near the front, there are table activities for during the talk for the younger children.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during the offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

Welcome & Notices

Opening Words

Why are we here?

We are here to worship God.

Why are we here?

We are here to hear from God.

Why are we here?

We are here to pray to God.



Advent Wreath Prayer (Week 1: Patriarchs)

We light this candle to remember Abraham and Sarah and all the faithful people of long ago. These people listened to God and trusted God. They went on a journey to obey God. We are also on a journey of faith, to know God better.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the world,
be with us on our journey through Advent,
that we may know you better.
Amen.**



Song

Let our praise be Your welcome

Let our songs be a sign
We are here for You,
we are here for You
Let Your breath come from heaven
Fill our hearts with Your life
We are here for You,
we are here for You



To You our hearts are open
Nothing here is hidden
You are our one desire
You alone are holy
Only You are worthy
God, let Your fire fall down

Let our shout be Your anthem
Your renown fill the skies
We are here for You,
we are here for You
Let Your Word move in power
Let what's dead come to life
We are here for You,
we are here for You

Bridge

We welcome You with praise
We welcome You with praise
Almighty God of love
Be welcomed in this place
Let every heart adore
Let every soul awake
Almighty God of love
Be welcomed in this place

Introduction

Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-23 (ERV)



¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, he learned that she was expecting a baby. (She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.) ¹⁹ Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah: ²³ "The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel." (Immanuel means "God with us.")

[At the end]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Sung Worship

All the earth was waiting

Long anticipating
For the true Messiah to come
In the chill of darkness
Light became incarnate
King of glory cradled in straw



Chorus

He is joy to the world
Peace on the earth
God has come to us
Immanuel

Hope for all the doubtful
Mercy for the shameful
Healer for the wounded and worn
Jesus our redeemer
Counsellor and keeper
Father's gift of love now outpoured

Come to him the Lord of lords
Bring your sorrow bring your joy
Worship and adore the one the world was waiting for
Jesus will return to reign
Wiping every tear away
Death will be defeated
Earth and heaven will proclaim

Who O Lord could save themselves

Their own soul could heal
Our shame was deeper than the sea
You grace is deeper still
(Repeat)



You alone can rescue
You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave
You came down to find us, led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise

You O Lord have made a way
The great divide You healed
For when our hearts were far away
Your love went further still
Yes Your love goes further still

Bridge

We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes
You're the giver of life

Talk & Table Activities (Jim Trood)



Saying Sorry

Father God, we are sorry for the times when we have **done** things that hurt you or other people. Save us from our sins.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



Lord Jesus, we are sorry for the times when we have **said** things that hurt you or other people. Save us from our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, we are sorry for the times when we have **thought** things that hurt you or other people. Save us from our sins.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgiven

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.
Amen.



Song

What kind of man is this? Born in Bethlehem
worshipped as a baby, by shepherds and wise men
What kind of man is this? Raised in Nazareth,
the son of a carpenter, yet born of virgin birth.



He's the One,
He's the Christ, the Messiah, Chosen One,
King of all the Earth!
He's the One,
He's the Christ, the Messiah,
Son of the Living God!

What kind of man is this? Who taught in Galilee,
stilled the raging storm and calmed the angry sea,
What kind of man is this?
Who healed the blind and lame,
gave hope to the poor, the girl her life again!

What kind of man is this? Who gave His life for me,
was whipped and beaten, then hung upon a tree,
What kind of man is this? Death could not defeat,
risen to the Father's side, nations at His feet.

Bridge

'Who do men say I am?'
Jesus asked one day
Peter spoke, words of faith,
with him now we say...

You're the One,
You're the Christ, the Messiah, Chosen One,
King of all the Earth!
You're the One, You're the Christ, the Messiah,
Son of the Living God!

Prayers (Priscilla Trood)



Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**



Response

Collection Song

From heav'n You came helpless babe
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live



This is our God the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King



There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
Yet not my will but Yours He said

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

Offertory Prayer



Take Home

Blessing

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son
Immanuel, to be God with us.

Amen.



May God the Son
give us grace
to live in the light of his coming as the Lord who saves.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit
free us from sin,
make us holy,
and bring us to eternal life.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

***St Matthew's Church: Worshipping God; Equipping his people;
Growing his kingdom; Serving Walsall***

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