

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Informal Family Communion



Christmas Day 2024

10am



Welcome & Happy Christmas

Jesus Christ is born today

O come let us adore him,

Join with all the world to say

O come let us adore him,

Children shout and church bells ring

O come let us adore him,

Angels and archangels sing,

O come let us adore him,

Spread the news through all the earth,

O come let us adore him,

Celebrate the Saviour's birth,

O come let us adore him.

Carol No.12 - O Come All Ye faithful (Please stand)

O Come All Ye Faithful

Joyful and triumphant,

Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him,

Born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

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,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

***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,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

***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,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.***

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Please sit)

Christ is our hope, our joy, our peace,
Our source of love and light.
Praise to Christ our light

The Advent candles are lit.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
Born in David's city of Bethlehem
Born like him to be a king:
Be born in our hearts this Christmas time,
be King of our lives today.**

Saying Sorry

We thank God for this special time; knowing that God lives within us, and we say sorry for words and actions which we regret.

Father God, Mary accepted your call to be the Mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.

Father Forgive us:

Save us and help us

Your Son our saviour was born into poverty.
Forgive us our greed and rejection of your ways.

Father Forgive us:

Save us and help us

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

Father Forgive us:

Save us and help us

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

Father Forgive us:

Save us and help us

May the Lord of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song - Christmas, it's Christmas,

***Christmas, it's Christmas,
It's Christmas once again.
The birthday of Jesus,
Born in Bethlehem***

***The Lord, who was that tiny baby,
existed long before the birth.
He laid aside his heav'nly glory
to be Jesus, Saviour of the earth!***

***Christmas, it's Christmas
It's Christmas once again.
The birthday of Jesus,
Born in Bethlehem***

***The Lord, who was that tiny baby,
grew up and lived to show the Father's love.
He laid aside his life to bring us back to God,
raised to life, he's back in heaven above.***

***Christmas, it's Christmas,
It's Christmas once again.
We thank you, Lord Jesus,
That you came. Amen.***

Blessing of the presents (Please sit)

The Peace (Please stand)

May the peace of the Christmas Child - the soft peace of a starlit night,
the noisy peace of a crowded stable, the challenging peace of life and
love fully lived and freely shared - remain always within our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you

Carol No. 1 O little town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

*O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to all on earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love*

*How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

Reading - Luke 2.1-16 Read by Samuel

(Please remain standing)

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Celebration or sigh? Mary [Sarah]

Carol No. 6 Away in a manger

*Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay*

*The cattle are lowing,
The Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus,
No crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear Children
In thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven
To live with thee there.*

Celebration or sigh? Joseph [Sarah]

Prayers

And as our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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 forever.
Amen.**

Carol No. 11 Joy to the world

***Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.***

***Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.***

Celebration or sigh? Shepherds [Sarah]

**Offertory Carol No.7 While shepherds watched their flocks
(Please stand)**

During this Carol the Altar is prepared

***While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.***

***"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.***

***"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:***

***"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid."***

***Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:***

***"All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."***

Communion Prayer (Please sit)

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus - joyfully born as one of us to show how life and love is fully lived and freely offered.

It is the story of Jesus - seated at a table with his friends breaking bread and pouring wine to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered change the world.

It is the story of Jesus - accepting a kiss and carrying a cross to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared count no cost.

It is the story of Jesus - confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn to show how life & love fully lived and freely shared defy and defeat even death.

It is the story of Emmanuel - God, now and always with us and for us.

Thanks be to God

So, as we take this bread and wine in remembrance of that life and love, may they be for us the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for the healing and hope which spring from the coming, living, dying and rising of the Christmas Child. And, with those who gather round his crib, with the angel choirs, we join in creation's song of joy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world

**God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life**

*All are welcome to share bread and wine or to receive a
Blessing.*

*During communion we sing Carol No 2 - In the Bleak Midwinter
please remain seated*

*In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heaven and Earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels
May have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him -
Give my heart.*

Post Communion Prayer

**God our Father,
Whose word has come among us
In the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
May the light of faith illumine our hearts
And shine in our words and deeds;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Following communion, we say a thanksgiving prayer:

**Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Carol No.10 Hark the Herald Angels sing [Please stand]

***Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye 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 newborn 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 man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

***Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!"***

The Blessing

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

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year
from everyone at St. Margaret's

