

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Hope Café meeting – Tuesday 4th January, 10am

Church Council meeting – Tuesday 4th January, 7.30pm.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim
good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for
the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.
(Luke 4:18-19).

OPENING PRAYER & CONFESSION

O Lord, as the years change, may we find
rest in your eternal changelessness. Help
us meet this New Year bravely, in the faith
that, while life changes all around us, you
are always the same, guiding us with your
wisdom and protecting us with your love;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O Lord, as the years change, forgive us in
your eternal mercy. Help us to walk in
your ways of truth and love and walk
away from all that hinders our journey
with you; through our Saviour Jesus
Christ. **Amen.**

SONG: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Come and worship,
Worship Christ the King.
Come and worship,
Worship Christ the new-born King.*

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant-light:**

Come and worship...

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:**

Come and worship...

**Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord descending
In His temple shall appear:**

INTRO TO THE THEME: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Link the names below with the meaning of
the names. See how many you can guess
correctly. First try the female names.

- Jane – God is gracious
- Margaret – Pearl
- Rachel – Ewe
- Emma – Whole or universal
- Vera – Faith
- Helen - Light
- Catherine – Clean and pure

Now try the male names.

- John – Yahweh is gracious
- Samuel – God has heard; name of
God
- Reuben – behold, a son
- Mark – Polite, shining
- Michael – Who is like God, gift
from God
- Josiah – God support and heals
- Jesus – to deliver, to rescue

- Joshua – God is deliverance

SONGS: IT WAS ON A STARRY NIGHT

**It was on starry night
When the hills were bright
Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still
Then in a cattle shed
In a manger bed
A boy was born, King of all the world.**

*And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born
King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born
King of all the world.*

**Soon the shepherds came that way
Where the baby lay,
And were kneeling, kneeling by his side.
And their hearts believed again
For the peace of men,
For a boy was born, King of all the world.**

*And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born
King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for Him
The bells of heaven rang for Him
For a boy was born
King of all the world.*

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.**

OFFERTORY

Gracious God, giver of every good gift,
including the gift of your Son, accept now

our worship and our lives along with these gifts. Accept them all for the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

READING: Luke 2:21-24

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'.

ACTIVITIES:

Make your name in coloured paper
Discuss the questions
Read the Bible reading and/or reflection
Discussion questions:
Jesus' name means 'God is salvation.'
Why is his name essential to our understanding of the incarnation?

Jesus is the Greek version of the name Joshua. We remember Joshua was the successor to Moses. What deliverance did Joshua achieve for God's people? What has this to do with Jesus?

Who was told to name the baby 'Jesus'?

What does the name Jesus mean to you?

What connects Jesus' circumcision with his death?

Why did Mary and Joseph bring a pair of doves or two young pigeons when Jesus was 'consecrated to the Lord'?

What does this tell us about our state
before the Lord?

**SONG: SEE HIM LYING ON A BED OF
STRAW**

**See him lying on a bed of straw
A draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The Prince of glory is His name.**

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable
then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world.**

O now carry me to Bethlehem...

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Bring God's glory to the heart of man;
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
Be salvation to the soul.**

O now carry me to Bethlehem...

**Mine are riches, from Thy poverty,
From Thine innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by Thy death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.**

O now carry me to Bethlehem...

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Gracious God, as we begin this New Year,
we ask you to walk with us each and every
day. And so we dedicate ourselves to you
to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be
among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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