

Connected

Sunday 25th December 2022

Christmas Day

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

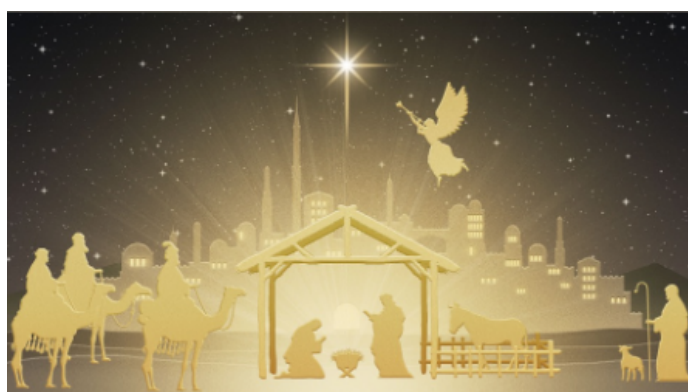
Luke 2: 1-20

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

I'm hoping that, whether you're travelling a lot or spending most of Christmas at home, that it is a peaceful time for you.

My talk on Christmas Day is to be on "Christmas cards" although, as I write this, we may still be receiving them for a few days yet! When we send such a card we're sending a message of love and we particularly value those cards we receive. There are messages too in the Bible; we learn from John's gospel that "the Word became flesh" (John 1). In other words, God's ultimate message (His "Word") took on form in the life of Jesus Christ. And having God come to us as a person gives us the best way to understand Him and what He's like. Have you ever thought of God as someone who wants to communicate with us? That the person of Jesus is God's message to you and me?

I hope you enjoy all the messages you receive over this season – letters, cards, visits, and phone calls... but most of all, I hope you discover the Christian message that lies at the heart of our celebrations – Jesus Christ the "Word made flesh".



Verse For The Week

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2: 11-12

Emmanuel

Luke 2: 1-20

The story of Christmas hinges on the right time and the right place. At that right time right place moment, and in the simplest of surroundings, the shepherds witnessed the majesty of heaven and Mary and Joseph know the joy of the birth of their firstborn son.

On Christmas morning, see again the simplest of surroundings in a stable and join the hosts of heaven as they worship His Majesty, the King of Kings, born for your salvation and mine.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Revelation 21: 1-5

New Year Resolutions...
"Behold I make all things new".

Context of Emperor worship...
Compare today - most people do not worship God.

Three things about 'newness':

New Life...
Only two men created without sin;

New Birth...
Born Again through the Holy Spirit;

New Body...
Anyone experiencing trouble with their body?
There is Good News about this.
God will bring in a New Heaven and a New Earth
and a New Body awaits YOU!



Emmanuel

Matthew 2: 1-12



The Magi went seeking after the long awaited Messiah, bearing gifts fit for a King. They didn't just happen to meet Him because His parents were looking for a place to stay - like the inn keeper. They were not nearby in the surrounding hills - like the shepherds. The Magi made an intentional decision to seek Him out, to direct their feet towards Him, whatever the long and uncertain journey ahead might look like. And when they saw the star they were overjoyed!

As we enter a new year what will we be intentionally directing our feet (and hearts) towards? Where will we look for our joy?

As we gather this New Year's Day at Emmanuel, let us look together at how the story of the Magi might inspire us afresh as we begin 2023.

Prayer Pointers

Shepherds, carpenters, stables, pregnant teenagers, and refugees:

God favouring the little, the least, and the underdog.

In your prayers this Christmas remember the unsung heroes and the helpless – carers working for love not money, fundraisers pouring out their time and talents for charities, asylum seekers, and street dwellers.

Power in the hands of Emperor, Governor and King:

God's plans coming about despite the self-interest and abuses of human rulers.

Please pray for governments locally, nationally and globally.

Wise men, gifts:

God's provision in time of crisis.

Ask God to provide for anyone caught up in natural disasters, conflict, or persecution.

Verse For The Week

" He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.' "

Revelation 21: 6

Father God we worship you because the Christmas story is so much more than carols and a nativity play - they are only the start of seeing more clearly who you are.

What's On This Week

Saturday 24th December

Nativity Service at 4pm at Christ Church
Midnight Communion at 11pm at Christ Church



Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day Communion at 10:30am at
both Christ Church & Emmanuel



Monday 26th December - Saturday 31st December

No groups/events being held this week

Monday 2nd January

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 3rd January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 4th January

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Thursday 5th January

No Craft & Chat this week
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Sunday 8th January

Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel
"A Changing Year" Service at 6pm at Christ Church

Notices

Tom Unavailable

Please note that Tom will be unavailable from Monday 26th December til Thursday 5th January inclusive.

Larissa Unavailable

Please note that Larissa will be unavailable from Monday 26th December til Tuesday 3rd January inclusive.

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be officially closed from Wednesday 21st December til Wednesday 4th January inclusive (although it will be intermittently manned during this period).

Christmas Cards

Please check the pigeon holes at Christ Church for any remaining Christmas cards!

Winter Warmth

Please note that Winter Warmth will not be held at Emmanuel on either Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

"A Changing Year"

*Our next prayer service is on
Sunday 8th January at 6pm.*

*It will be a time for laying to rest some of our
past year and praying for the hopes of the
coming year.*

Christmas Morning

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Christmas Day Family Communion Service at 10:30am as we celebrate the birth of Jesus all together as a Church family.

If you would like to bring along one of your Christmas presents to the service on Christmas morning to show Tom & the congregation please do so!!

Alpha Course at Christ Church



*If you're exploring the
Christian faith, or have
a friend who is doing
that, then the Alpha
course could be right
for you/them.*

*We're starting Wednesday evenings mid-January.
To find our more do ask Tom, Larissa
or Angie Girling.*



Contact Details

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Christ Church Directories

*For anyone who has not yet picked up a
Christ Church Directory, there are still some
available at the back of church.*