

Sunday 24th December, 2023 7.30pm

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.

Assistant Minister: Mrs. Julie Hearty, B.D.

Musical Director: Mr. Alan A. Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn 302 It was on a starry night when the hills were bright

1. It was on a 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

2. 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

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

Prayer

John 1:1-18

Hymn 304 O' Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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 to-night.
2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) CMD

The Light Audition

Reflection

Prayer

Hymn 301 Hark! The herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!'*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
off-spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! the herald-angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

3. 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 each child of earth,
born to give us second birth:
*Hark! the herald-angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), altered George Whitefield (1714-1770)

Benediction