

# UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MICHAEL BETCHWORTH AND ST MARY BUCKLAND

## Christmas Day

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020



We have this Advent Ring to remind us of those who prepared the way for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. The fourth candle reminds us of the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave birth to the Saviour of the world.

### ***Five candles are lit***

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be mother of your son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel who brought good news; blessed is Mary your mother and ours. Bless your church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen.

### **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



**Hymn : Hark! The herald angels sing**

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 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.

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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) and others

Music: Adapted from Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10 - The Lord has redeemed Jerusalem**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see

the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

For the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Anthem: *I saw three ships Trad arr James O'Donnell***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B48eAg\\_7q4k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B48eAg_7q4k)

(Westminster Cathedral Choir)

*I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas Day in the morning.  
And what was in those ships all three  
Our Saviour Christ and his lady*

*Pray, wither sailed those ships all three  
O, they sailed into Bethlehem  
And all the bells on Earth shall ring  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,  
And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
Then let us all rejoice again,*

Words: English Traditional (Sandys, 1833)

**Gospel** John 1.1-14 - The Word became flesh and we have seen his glory

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon : Kerry Evans ( Ordinand)**



**Prayers.**

Loving God,  
We ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit  
to help us pray in this difficult times.

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit  
for those who are tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression:  
for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.  
We pray for the Foodbanks, for the volunteers and those using the facility for the first time

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit  
for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain;  
for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or bereavement.  
In the silence we lift before you those on our hearts at this time ...  
Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit  
for those reaching out to comfort the distressed;  
for those reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ through their words and actions which  
emanate your love

Lord hear us: **Lord Graciously hear us**

Loving God,  
We ask for the assurance of your Spirit  
to know your presence with us in our daily lives:  
in our relationships.  
in our work and service.  
in our worship.  
in our times of joy and pain.

**Merciful father accept these prayers through our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. Amen

Our worship has now ended, and our service now begins...

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Voluntary;** Interlude on 'God rest you merry' - W S Lloyd-Webber (1914-82)



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**St Mary's Church**

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*God Bless*