

North Kent Circuit Service

Christmas Eve Service 2020 9pm & 11.30pm

Led by North Kent Circuit Staff

The Broadcast will commence at 8.45pm (9pm Service) & 11.15pm (11.30pm Service) on Christmas Eve morning with music. Throughout the service, the music will be broadcast, and the words will appear on the screen.

Love Feast:

The service will include the sharing of food. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or a love feast cake especially for this service. The drink may be water, but other drinks such as tea, coffee or a soft drink may be used.

Pre-service Music

Welcome

Music

Introduction to our Theme & Meditations

Opening Prayer

Carol: Once in Royal David's city

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And, through all his wondrous childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feelth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child who seemed so helpless
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing round,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander

Reading: Luke 1:26-38
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Meditation of Mary, the mother of Jesus – Rev
Naomi Oates

Silence

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see you lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the Silent stars
go by:
Yet in your dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

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

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.

Phillips Brooks

Meditation of the sheep
Jon & Chris Selmes

Silence

Carol: In the Bleak mid winter

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

*Hail that ever blessèd morn,
Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today.
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'
Told us of the Saviour's birth.

Refrain

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

Refrain

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility.

Refrain

Christina Rossetti

Reading Luke 2:15-21
Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard

Meditation of the shepherds
Rev Robert Zachar

Silence

Reading: John 1:1-18
Rev Gill Le Boutillier-Scott

Meditation of John the Evangelist
Rev Tony Graff

Silence

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Refrain

Edward Caswall

Love Feast "Sharing Food"

Silent Prayer followed by the Lord's prayer

Carol: O come all ye faithful

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels;
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

True God of True God,
Light of light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father
Begotten not created,
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, Gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ child
bring our hearts' oblations:
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

(Sung at the 11.30pm Service)

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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

John Francis Wade

Blessing