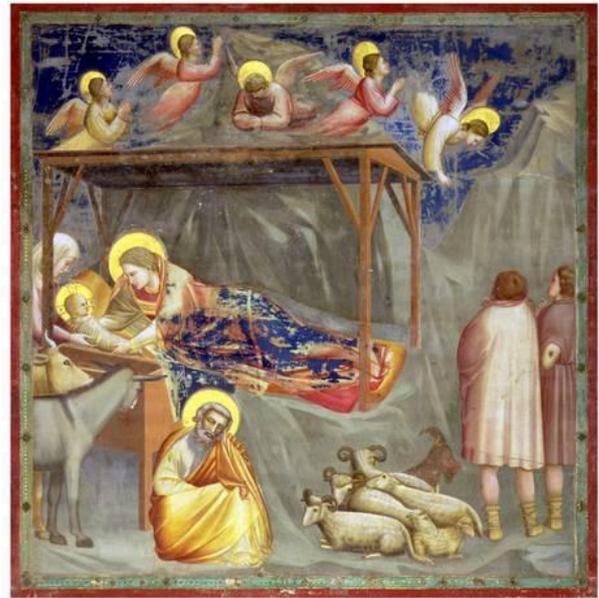


**Morning Worship at St Gall's  
Church  
on Christmas Morning 2020**



Greeting

I bring you good news of great joy  
**A Saviour has been born to you.  
Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born

**Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

**We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

The Lighting of the Advent wreath.

Love-shine, your moment has come. In the dark of the womb you waited.

Bathed in the balm of the star, you rest.

Into a world sorely in need of your light, you are born.

When you knock on our door looking for room, may we welcome you.

Like the herald of your birth, call us to share your good news first with those who are poor, excluded and afraid.

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.**

*Light the Christ candle and all four Advent candles.*

The love of heaven has come to Earth. The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry.

Listen and respond.

**All: We light the Christ candle. May it light the way.**

As we look at all our candles burning , we thank you God for your great gift to us in sending Jesus, whose birthday we are celebrating.

**Jesus, you bring us hope, peace, joy, love and light. May we bring honour to you by our living to this day and every day. Amen.**

Hymn 149 : Away in a manger

Introduction and Confession

Let us pray:

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save this people from their sins.' Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger: Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

May the God of healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us

**And we have seen his glory.**

Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,\* the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,\* praising God and saying,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gift of Jesus

The Collects and Prayers

Give us, O God, such love and wonder  
that, with shepherds and pilgrims unknown,  
we may come to adore the holy Child, the promised King,  
and with our gifts worship him,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers response:

Reader : Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary

Response: **Be born in us today.**

We say together:

**Almighty Father, we rejoice in the coming of Christ our Lord. We pray that, as he has taken on our humanity, through your grace and**

**goodness we may share in your divinity, and so partake in the radiance of your glory; through him who came for us and is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn 172 : O Come all ye Faithful

The Christmas Blessing

This Holy Day, let the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor enlighten you, the strength of the Mighty God empower you, the Love of the Everlasting Father enfold you, and the peace of the Prince of Peace be about you: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer of Dismissal

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus so that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

**May this Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

### **Parish Notices**

As we begin six weeks of lockdown from the 26th December I understand that church services can continue with all the protective measures we need in place. Keep an eye on our online parish resources and the local news. If anything changes we shall let you know. Michael.

For folks at home. Google St Gall's Church to find our parish website. Put 'St Gall's Church' into YouTube and 'Like' and 'Subscribe' to the St Gall's channel.

**Our Church Office** had reopened with three volunteers. They are doing a terrific job but have moved to work from home for the next six weeks. Nanette, Mary and Helen have been reaching out and getting in touch.

The office is “online” on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 until 12 noon.

Our office ministry in the coming weeks will be all about reaching out and getting in touch by phone. Would you like a chat? Or know someone who would? You can get in touch with Nanette on 91459756 to arrange that.

Also, would you like someone to be prayed for? Is there someone in your family who is ill or in need of prayer? Get in touch with Nanette & the team will pray for them.

### **Supporting the Salvation Army - Sunday 13th December Toy Service**

A huge thank you to everyone who brought along a toy or gift to donate to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

### **Up-Coming Services in Church**

Subject to any changes due to lockdown developments. Online services still available.

27th December - Sunday at 10 a.m. - Morning Prayer