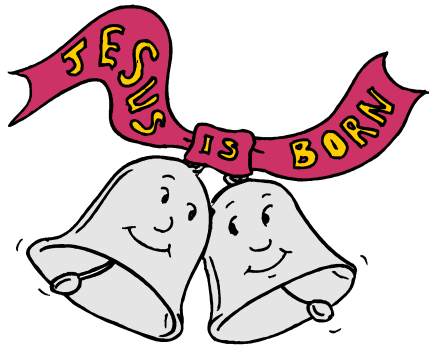


Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the best Christmas present any of us will ever receive. Please be at the centre of our celebrations today, and our lives from today onwards. **Amen.**

May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ child be God's gifts to us this Christmas time and always. And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us now and evermore. **Amen.**



SAINT JAMES CHURCH CARLISLE

CHRISTMAS DAY 2009



Welcome to St James on this special Christmas morning as we celebrate together, the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's amazing gift to us.

*If you have a mobile telephone,
please ensure that it is turned off. Thank you.*

*(If you are new to St James' please fill in one of
the Welcome Cards on the pews)*

Welcome and Notices

Sentence from Scripture:

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke Chapter 2 verses 10-12

Carol

***Come and join the celebration,
It's a very special day;
Come and share our jubilation,
There's a new King born today!***

See the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem;
Gaze in wonder
At the Son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey,
Led to worship by a star,
Kneel in homage,
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

'God is with us,'
'round the world the message bring;
He is with us,
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing.

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Please feel free to take this service sheet away with you

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Prayers

As we come into the presence of the Christ Child,
we bring our prayers to him:

Where the world is in darkness;

Lord Jesus, send your light

Where there is conflict:

Lord Jesus, bring your peace

Where people are hurting

Lord Jesus, send your healing

Where people despair

Lord Jesus, bring your hope

Where there is sorrow

Lord Jesus, bring your joy. Amen.

followed by The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.**



Carol

See Him lying on a bed of straw,
A draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The Prince of glory is His name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world.

O now carry me . . .

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Bring God's glory to the heart of man;
Sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
Be salvation to the soul.

O now carry me . . .

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
From your innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me . . .

O now carry me . . .

Michael Perry © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

We say sorry to God

Christ came in humility to share our lives.
Lord God,

Forgive our pride.

Christ came with good news for all people.

Lord God,

Forgive our silence.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering.

Lord God,

Forgive our self-centredness.

For we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance

Listen to God's promise to all who are really sorry. He forgives all who come before him in repentance and faith, and he fills our hearts with joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Reading

Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-20

(Page 74 after the blue tag)

after the reading:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Talk

Good News for All - Sweet

Carol

Joy to the world! the Lord has come;

Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.