

# Christmas Day Worship



at  
Blofield Church



## **Greeting**

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;  
**Jesus is our King.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;  
**Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;  
**Jesus is the true light.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever;  
**Jesus is our Life.**



## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our saviour,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come in his glorious majesty;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Carol** | 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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*Chorus*

3 See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Chorus*

4 Lo, star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts' oblations;  
*Chorus*

5 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
in the highest:'  
*Chorus*

*continued over*

6           Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
              born this happy morning,  
              Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
              word of the Father,  
              now in flesh appearing:  
              *Chorus*

*Adeste fideles*

Anonymous Latin, attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786) Etienne Jean Francois Borderies ((1764-1832) William Mercer (1811-1873), Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) and others  
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## **Te Deum Laudamus – A song of the Church**

We praise you, O God,  
we acclaim you as the Lord;  
all creation worships you,  
the Father everlasting.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**



The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

**Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,  
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free:  
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints:  
to glory everlasting.**

### **The Collect prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen**

- 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ;  
while fields and streams and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,



and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
the wonders of his love.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading** *Psalm. 96*

**Carol** 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians fear: for sinners here  
the silent word is pleading.  
*Refrain*

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
*Refrain*

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Luke.2:1-20

**A Reflection** 'What Child is this?'  
The Rector

**Carol** 1 See, amid the winter snow,  
born for us on earth below;  
see, the gentle Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years:  
*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!*  
*hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*



2 Low within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
reigns above the cherubim:  
*Chorus*

3 Say, you humble shepherds, say  
what's your joyful news today?  
tell us why you left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep:  
*Chorus*



4 'As we watched at dead of night,  
all around us shone a light;  
angels singing Peace on earth  
told us of a Saviour's birth.'  
*Chorus*

5 Sacred infant, king most dear,  
what a tender love was here,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!  
*Chorus*

*continued over*

6 Holy Saviour, born on earth,  
teach us by your lowly birth;  
grant that we may ever be  
taught by such humility.

*Chorus*

Jubilate Hymns version of See, *amid the winter's snow*, Edward Caswall (1814-1878) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd  
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### **Our Prayers.**

Jesus, born in a human family:  
we pray for families everywhere today  
We remember families separated by the pandemic.  
All those who on this day are missing the company of  
loved ones far and near.  
Bless those who are alone and the lonely today and give  
your peace to those who are anxious for the future.  
We pray for those close to us whom we would want to  
lift into your presence.

*(a moment of silent prayer as we name them in our hearts)*

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger:  
we pray for all who are weak and vulnerable and those  
who need the care and protection of others.  
We pray for those in care homes and those who will look  
after them on this special day.  
We pray for doctors, nurses and all hospital staff, caring  
for covid patients and other sick ones.  
We pray for those homeless in Norwich and those who  
will provide for them in shelters and halls.

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:  
we pray for your creation.  
Inspire us with the wisdom to care for it as we should.  
Teach us to be truly thankful for all your gifts without  
greed or covetousness .

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and Magi:  
we pray for peoples, nations and races everywhere.  
We thank you for the cultural diversity of our  
communities and our common humanity that binds us  
together. Be with all who are refugees and any who  
persecuted for whatever reason. And we remember  
today those countries without peace, where war and  
strife rages. Bring the hope of your kingly reign of justice  
and peace.

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
Be present with your church and all your people. Guide us  
through these difficult times. Fill our hearts with peace and  
joy as we are filled with the presence of your Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer and let us live in the love and the  
light your presence brings.  
Amen.**

Carol 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle-stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.



*W zlobie lezy, Anonymous Polish translated by Edith M G Reed (1885-1933)  
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## The Lord's Prayer

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as 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 the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Father, fill you with hope.

God the Son establish his likeness in you.

God the Holy Spirit pour upon you his abundance.

And The blessing Of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with you and those whom you love this Holy season and forevermore.

## **Amen**

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!'*

*continued over*

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)  
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