

Christmas Day 2017

REJOICE!

Call to Worship - (congregational lines **in bold**)

Jesus, born of woman, you entered time.

Giver of life,

come now, in our time,

change our darkness into light.

Breathe in us, enter our hearts.

We need you day by day.

Bring us to a new birth, a new life, a new us.

We want to be your children of light.

Come among us now –

as we celebrate your birth

and sing your praise.

Praise: Come and join the celebration

(MP 83)

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,*

there's a new King born today!

- 1 See the shepherds
hurry down to Bethlehem;
gaze in wonder
at the Son of God who lay before them.
Come and join . . .

- 2 Wise men journey,
led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage,
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so
Come and join . . .

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

Welcome & Lighting of the Jesus Candle –

*including **A candle is burning***

1. A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in November's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
2. A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.
3. A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
4. A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession and The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Praise: Love came down at Christmas (MP 451) Tune: Gartan (CH4 316)

- 1 Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.

- 2 Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;

worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?

- 3 Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Reading: John 1: 1 – 14

(p.1063)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.
- 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.
- 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.
- 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
- 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
- 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Praise: The first nowell

(MP 644)

1 The first nowell the angel did say,
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

2 Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay:

Nowell, nowell . . .

3 At Bethlehem they entered in,

on bended knee they worshipped Him;
they offered there in His presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, nowell . . .

- 4 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with His blood mankind has bought:
Nowell, nowell . . .

Time with the Children

Praise: Child in the manger

(MP 71)

- 1 Child in the manger, infant of Mary,
outcast and stranger, Lord of all!
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
all our demerits on Him fall.
- 2 Once the most holy child of salvation
gentle and lowly lived below:
now as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
see Him victorious over each foe.

- 3 Prophets foretold Him, infant of wonder;
angels behold Him on His throne:
worthy our Saviour of all their praises;
happy for ever are His own.

Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

(p.693)

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 2: 1 - 14

(p.1027)

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Some Christmas Thoughts

Praise: It was on a starry night when the moon was bright (CH4 302)

1. It was on a starry night when the hills were
bright,
earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still;
then in a cattle shed, in a manger bed,

a boy was born, King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.
And all the angels sang for him,
the bells of heaven rang for him;
for a boy was born, King of all the world.

2. Soon the shepherds came that way, where the
baby lay,
and were kneeling, kneeling by his side,
to celebrate his birth bringing peace on earth;
a boy was born, King of all the world.

Prayer for Christmas

Praise: O come, all ye faithful

(MP 491)

O come, all you faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come now, O come now 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 True God of true God,
light of light eternal,
He, who abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten not created:

O come, let us adore Him . . .

3 Sing like the angels,
sing in exultation,

sing with the citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':
O come, let us adore Him . . .

- 4 Yes, Lord, we greet You,
born that/*this* happy morning,
Jesus, to You be glory given!
Word of the Father,
then/*now* in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him . . .

Benediction and 3-fold Amen

For Unto Us

A Child is Born

**e Minister, Consistory and Council
of the Scots International Church Rotterdam
extend to you
their best wishes at this Christmas time.
May God bless you richly in the coming year.**

**Merry
Christmas**

The text 'Merry Christmas' is rendered in a decorative, outlined serif font. The word 'Merry' is on the top line, and 'Christmas' is on the bottom line. The letter 'C' in 'Christmas' is significantly larger and features a horizontal line through its middle. Several snowflake icons are scattered around the text, primarily above the 'Merry' and 'Christmas' words.

**Sunday 7th January - Soup & Christmas Pudding Lunch
immediately after the Service -
come and enjoy the puddings you stirred on 10 December!**