

Tyndale Baptist Church recorded service
With greetings to
Redland Park United Reformed Church

Christmas Day 2020
Morning Service
10.00am



Call to Worship

On Christmas Day we proclaim 'joy to the world' as we gather in our hearts wherever we are. In a world short on joy in this extraordinary year, still we enter into the joy of Christmas and proclaim to the world as we worship – the Lord is come!

Lighting the Christmas candle –

'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,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:

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...

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...

Prayer

This glad day, this happy morning, we greet you as we mark your coming to us – coming into our world – in Jesus the baby born in a stable, born today. For just a few moments today, before the rest of Christmas begins, we draw aside to worship you. Lord, we thank you that we have this annual happy sign of your presence to call us every year to rejoicing and joyfulness – as a tiny, out-of-the-way, insignificant thing – a baby born into the loving heart of a faithful family - shows us once again the vast, immeasurable extent of your truth and love.

And Lord, if in this extraordinary year this Christmas can't be all that we'd like it to be, still we rejoice that the heart of Christmas shines as it always has – and we ask you to help us to rejoice in that light once again and to reflect it in hopeful lives and to shine with the light of your love in our hearts this day, and each day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading – Luke 2:1-7

Leader	For to us a child is born; to us a son is given
All	And the government will be upon his shoulders
Leader	And his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor
All	Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
Leader	Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy
All	That will be for all the people
Leader	Today in the town of David
All	A Saviour has been born to you: Christ the Lord

BPW 175 ['Who would think that what was needed'](#) Iona Community/Victoria Methodist virtual choir

Greetings

A happy Christmas everybody – and greetings from Tyndale Baptist Church to everyone who is joining in with this worship, wherever you are. We would usually join with the people of Redland Park URC this morning, but, well - everybody's Christmas plans have been thrown into disarray by the response to the coronavirus – few if any of us will be able to be together with loved ones and friends this year as we might have hoped, and being unable to be together with them is part and parcel. It must be 30? 30plus? years since last our two churches celebrated Christmas apart, but I hope we will all be able to affirm that old truth that's almost a cliché – we are together in Spirit.

{A happy Christmas everybody – and greetings from the people of Tyndale Baptist Church. It's a pity that we can't be together at Redland Park this morning, just as it's a pity that everybody's Christmas plans have been thrown into disarray by the response to the coronavirus – few if any of us will be able to be together with loved ones and friends this year as we might have hoped, and being unable to come to your church is part and parcel. It must be 30? 30plus? years since last our two churches celebrated Christmas apart, but I hope we will all be able to affirm that old truth that's almost a cliché – we are together in Spirit.}

Anyway, enough of all this. It's Christmas, so I thought we ought to have a Christmas song this morning – to commemorate and recognise and to celebrate Christmas -in this extraordinary year of Coronavirus...and Zoom, and face masks and vaccines...and so much else. So give me a moment while I make like Bing Crosby – We're Zooming for a nice Christmas..

A peaceful Christmas to one and all

Prayers

We pray for all those for whom this Christmas will be marred by grief at the loss of someone close. May they find that the love of God reaches into even their darkness, through the light of Christ.

Leader Father God, whose Son is born to us,
All **Help us to live in hope in the world**

We pray for all those for whom this Christmas means loneliness and isolation and no more than a brief break before the anxiety of unemployment or business closure. May they discover that the love of God reaches even into their distress, through the hope Christ brings

Leader Father God, whose Son is born to us,
All **Help us to live in hope in the world**

We pray for those for whom this Christmas means work to bring healing and help to others. May they find that their spirits are strengthened by the unseen presence of God's Spirit.

Leader Father God, whose Son is born to us,
All **Help us to live in hope in the world**

We pray for us all, as we determine to make the most of Christmas in this strange year. May we all know the indwelling truth of God's presence, through the truths of the Christmas story at work in our hearts

Leader Father God, whose Son is born to us,
All **Help us to live in hope in the world**

Offering – and the grace

Lord God, for love, for peace in the world, for an outbreak of hope in every heart and for glimpses of your Kingdom this and each day, we give of ourselves in these and all our gifts with thankful hearts. Amen

The grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

['Hark the herald angels sing'](#) a virtual choir and orchestra from Victoria Methodist Church!

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.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Benediction

Now may the blessing of God almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always, amen.

Thanks once again to Rachel Molyneux for sorting out today's music, to Rachel Haig for the reading and to Ian Holyer for the technical production. We are all grateful to them and to so many others for making our weekly services possible during this year – and we thank them in anticipation for all that lies ahead..

I wish you all well as you celebrate Christmas & at least make contact with loved ones and friends – those you cannot be with this year. 2021 will be on us soon & already comes with signs of hope – vaccine rollout, not least. But as I've been saying in recent weeks, the Christian hope is of a different order & underlies everything else. I trust that that hope will grow deeply rooted in your hearts as you live by faith and encourage one another and all you meet in the days ahead – and do take the opportunity to join with the ecumenical service next Sunday, that's hosted by Rev David Stephenson at St Paul's. Here is [the link](#).

Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.