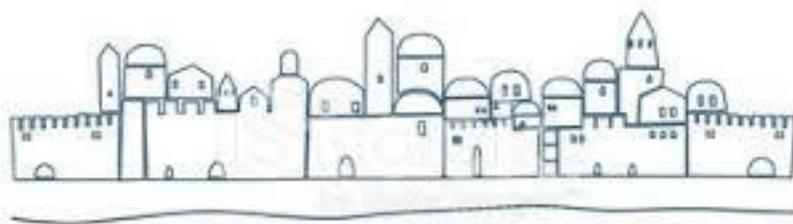


# **Tyndale Baptist Church**

## **Carols by Candlelight 2021**



## 'Luke 1:26-38' - The annunciation

Leader This is the best of times  
**All Born to the worst of times**

Leader This is the age of wisdom  
**All Born to an age of foolishness**

Leader This is the age of belief  
**All Born to an age of incredulity**

Leader This is the season of light  
**All Born to a time of darkness**

Leader This is the spring of hope  
**All Born to a winter of despair**

Leader Everything is before us  
**All Nothing is all around us**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **Luke 2:1-7 - The birth**

#### **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.*

*Charles Wesley 1707-88*

Leader The best of times is upon us.

**All The worst of times is overcome.**

Leader God's Wisdom is sufficient for the age.

**All God's foolishness is wiser than the wisdom of the age.**

Leader In an age of many beliefs, we believe in Christ

**All In an age when some do not believe, we believe in Christ**

Leader We proclaim a Hope that springs eternal.

**All We proclaim the winter of despair is over.**

Leader Those who are in Christ shall have everything,

**All Though they shall be thought of as nothing in this age**

### **Reading Luke 2:8-20 - The Shepherds**

**Choir - "Torches, torches" by John Joubert**

**1** While shepherds watched  
Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around

**2** "Fear not," said he,  
For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds,  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind",

**3** "To you in David's  
Town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Saviour who is  
Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign

**4** "The heavenly Babe  
You there shall find  
To human view displayed  
All meanly wrapped  
in swaddling bands  
And in a manger laid

**5** Thus spake the seraph,  
And forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song

**6** "All glory be to  
God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from  
heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!

### **Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 - The Kings**

**Leader** We come to witness to the best of times

**All** **We come to serve in the worst of times**

**Leader** We come seeking Wisdom for this age

**All** **We turn from the foolishness of the world**

**Leader** We believe, that the age might believe

**All** **We believe; Lord help our unbelief**

**Leader** We have a hope that springs eternal

**All** **Though the winter comes we will not despair**

**Leader** We look to receive everything from God

**All** **We look to gain nothing in this age**

### **Reading - Luke 2:25-32 - Simeon's consolation**

**1** In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter,  
Long ago.

**2** Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and Earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

**3** Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But His mother only,  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

**4** What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him -  
Give my heart

Poem - 'Ballad of the bread man'

Charles Causley

Choir - 'The Word'

John Bell & Graham Maule

Reading – Micah 4:6-7 & 5:2-5 – The city of the King

1 O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep  
and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by.

2 Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears  
of all the years,  
Are met in thee tonight.

3 For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above;  
While mortals sleep  
the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

4 O, morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing  
to God the King  
And peace to men on earth.

5 How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts  
to human hearts,  
The blessings of His heaven.

6 No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin;  
Where meek souls will  
Receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

7 O, holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin  
and enter in,  
Be born in us today.

8 We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O, come to us abide with us,  
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

*Philips Brooks*

**Reflection - 'A tale of two cities'**

If I'd been there in Bethlehem, if I had seen that star,  
Would I write a book about it; would I go that far?  
And if I'd been a traveler, and you said, 'Follow me!'  
Would I go to where you led and take you seriously?

*Star bright, gleaming white, thoughts I have of you tonight;  
Star bright, gleaming white, shine on us all this Christmas night!*

If I'd been an astrologer, a prophet or a king,  
Would I find myself disturbed – by such a gentle thing?  
If you, dear Jesus, had a chance to turn and run away,  
Would you stay to live that life, and still be here today?

*Star bright, gleaming white, thoughts I have of you tonight;  
Star bright, gleaming white, shine on us all this Christmas night!*

## Prayers

**Leader** We pray that the light of Christmas time will shine bright  
and clear in homes, communities, towns, nations and lives

**All** **Shine, light of the world**

**Leader** We pray that the hope of the Bethlehem babe will bring  
fresh hope wherever, among refugees, on city streets and in  
broken homes, hope is in short supply,

**All** **Shine clear, hope of the world**

**Leader** We pray that the faith of the shepherds and kings will be  
born in the hearts of many without faith; grow strong in those  
who live by faith, and find its way into the lives of any who have  
lost faith in themselves or in the world

**All** **Shine bright, truth and love for the world. Amen.**

**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:

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

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

*O come, let us adore Him..*

Sing, choir of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above:  
'Glory to God In the highest':

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

This is my final Carols by Candlelight service at Tyndale; Christmas has of course been a highlight of the years for us all and Christmas services will be high on the list of good memories of this place. May I thank you all for coming tonight and thank you for your support in so many ways in the past.

I hope that we will be able to meet again in the coming weeks, up until my retirement proper, in April. For now, may I wish you all, as we make our way through the 'new normal', a very happy Christmas.

### **Benediction**

**We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a New Year enriched by hope in the promise of God.**