

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

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

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",

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.