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.

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.....*

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.....*

Yes, Lord, we greet You,

born this happy morning,

Jesus, to You be glory given!

Word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore Him.....*

Latin, 18th cent., tr Frederick Oakley (1802-80) © 1986 Horrobin Leavers CCLI 150801

**Blessing**

**Westfield Christmas Day Andrew**

“A very Happy Christmas to you all.”

**Call to worship** Luke 2:10-11

**Carol No. M.P. 211 Hark the herald angels sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing

‘Glory to the new-born King!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled.’

Joyful, all you 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 Immanuel.

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) CCLI 150801

**Prayer & Lord’s Prayer**

**Light Central Advent Candle**

‘Jesus, the light of the world.’

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Through Advent we have lit the four candles to remember:

the people who were called to follow God’s path,

the Prophets who listened for God’s word to his people,

the people who put their trust in God’s word

and those who we follow in worship and service in this church and community.

In Christ, our hope is fulfilled, God’s peace is given to

us, our joy is complete, and the fullness of God’s love is

revealed.

**Light Centre Candle**

Jesus is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

**Carol No. M.P. 47 Away in a manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

**“This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying

**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The sharing of the bread and wine

**The bread** which we break is the communion of the body of Christ, take it and eat it, it is the body of Christ given for you. Do it in remembrance of him.

**The cup** of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. It is the new covenant in the blood of Christ shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin, drink of it. Do it in remembrance of him.

Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we who the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us; so that we and all your children may be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**Carol No. M.P. 491 O come, all you faithful**

O come, all you faithful,

joyful and triumphant,

We give you thanks that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.

We praise you that he took our nature and was born as the child of Mary, that he might share our life, reveal your love, reconcile us to yourself, and give us power to become your children.

We praise you that after he had suffered and been put to death on the Cross he was raised from the dead by your power; that he is the true Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world; and that by his glorious resurrection he has restored to us eternal life and given us the joy of your kingdom.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which we break may be the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless may be the communion of the blood of Christ. give us grace to share his sufferings and to know the power of his resurrection, that we may be made one and ever more abide in him, to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Bread and Wine

As we gather at this table, we remember that Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on the third day he rose again; and he is always present through the Holy Spirit. In his presence, and in the company of all the people of God, past, present, and to come, we celebrate the Supper of our Lord, who....... on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said:

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes:

I love you, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky

and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask You to stay

close by me forever and love me, I pray;

bless all the dear children in Your tender care,

and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

CCLI 150801

**Reading** Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus

**Reflection**

I love watching children open presents watching their eyes light up as they take the paper off and open the box take the toy out and then spend the rest of the day playing with the box and the paper. We’ve probably all seen that but it’s that look of joy when they find something they didn’t expect something new something exciting that is wonderful to see.

Luke’s gospel tells us that the shepherds, having been to the stable and seen the baby Jesus, went back to their sheep singing praises to God for all they had seen.

Matthew’s gospel says about the Wise men; how happy they

were, what joy was theirs! No wonder that they got excited about such a wonderful gift from God and for the same reason, no wonder that children get excited when they receive presents too.

The difference is that children usually get many presents but God gave his one and only Son so although we often forget some of our presents and hold on to our favourite ones

there is and for ever will be only one special gift from God.

It is probable the shepherds and wise men remembered the experience of seeing Jesus until something else happened which then seemed more important. The shepherds having to move on to new pastures, having to bravely defend the sheep against a wolf or bear, the wise men seeing another starry spectacle that made them think about the future or another journey rather than look back to the past.

But for Mary and Joseph the excitement of their first son would stay with them for the whole of their lives and today God’s gift is the most special gift we shall receive and we can share our excitement together as we celebrate again the coming of God to be with us in our hearts and lives this Christmas. In that way God fulfils his promise that he is with us not just for Christmas but the whole year through and for ever.

**Prayer**

**Carol No. M.P. 83 Come and join the celebration**

Come and join the celebration

it's a very special day,.

Come and share our jubilation

there's a new King born today!

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,

gaze in wonder

at the Son of God who lay before them:

*Come and join.....*

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,

kneel in homage,

bringing precious gifts from lands afar; So:

*Come and join.....*

'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.....*

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**Communion**

We have come to celebrate the birth of our Lord. We have come to celebrate the incarnation of God, Immanuel, God with us. We have come to praise God for this most wonderful gift of his Son who became the Saviour of the world…

and who said: “I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. Come to me, all who are tired and weary and I will give you rest.” So, it is in His name that we always invite all

who love our Lord Jesus Christ to gather at his table

Prayer

With joy we give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, that we live in your world, that you are always creating and sustaining it by your power, and that you have so made us that we can know and love you, trust anad serve you.