

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

20/12/2020 – Candlelight Carol Service

Angels by Candlelight



Please join us Christmas Day at Bethels 10am service by using the following link:

Topic: Christmas Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79987466327?pwd=VFMzd0JBYWx0U1V5UzRFQ3JPd1NtZz09>

Meeting ID: 799 8746 6327

Passcode: g2zQ23

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

" Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God!"

Luke 2:13

Good evening and welcome to our Candlelight Carol Service.

Our first carol is "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold him

Born the King of angels

Oh, come, let us adore him

Oh, come, let us adore him

Oh, come, let us adore him

Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light eternal

Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb

Very God

Begotten, not created

Oh, come, let us adore him ...

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God

Glory in the highest

Oh, come, let us adore him ...

Our first reading this evening John 1 1-5:

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.

Our second carol is "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"





Let us pray:

Loving Father, Help us remember that through the birth of Jesus you gave us your only son, help us at this time to give freely. Help us remember that we may share in the song of the angels, help us at this time to sing with great joy for all we have. Help us remember the gladness of the shepherds, help us, at this time share the gladness which comes from all your blessings. Help us remember the worship of the wise men, help us, at this time to remember to worship you as we know that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas Season. Amen

Our second reading this evening is Isaiah 9:6-7

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 Counsellor, 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 for ever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Our third carol is "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Our third reading this evening Luke 2 1-7:

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^Q 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.

Our fourth carol is “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1. O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the
years
Are met in thee tonight
2. For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the
angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the
King
And Peace to men on earth
3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human
hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may his His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive
him still,
The dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Offertory prayer

Glorious God, please accept our gifts of love, hope, joy and worship in this special season. We remember in these strange times that it is your will not ours. We pray you give us the will to continue to give in whatever way we can this Christmas. We ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. Amen

Our fifth carol is "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came
down,
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he for
mighty dread
had seized their troubled
mind
"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
a Savior, who is Christ the
Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly babe you
there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in
swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel.
Suddenly
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;
to those on whom his favor
rests
goodwill shall never cease."

Our third reading this evening Luke 2 8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, 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 Saviour 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 favour rests.'

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told

Our sixth carol is "We Three Kings"

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

O star of wonder ...

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

O star of wonder ...

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder ...

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder ...



Our third reading this evening Matthew 2 1-12

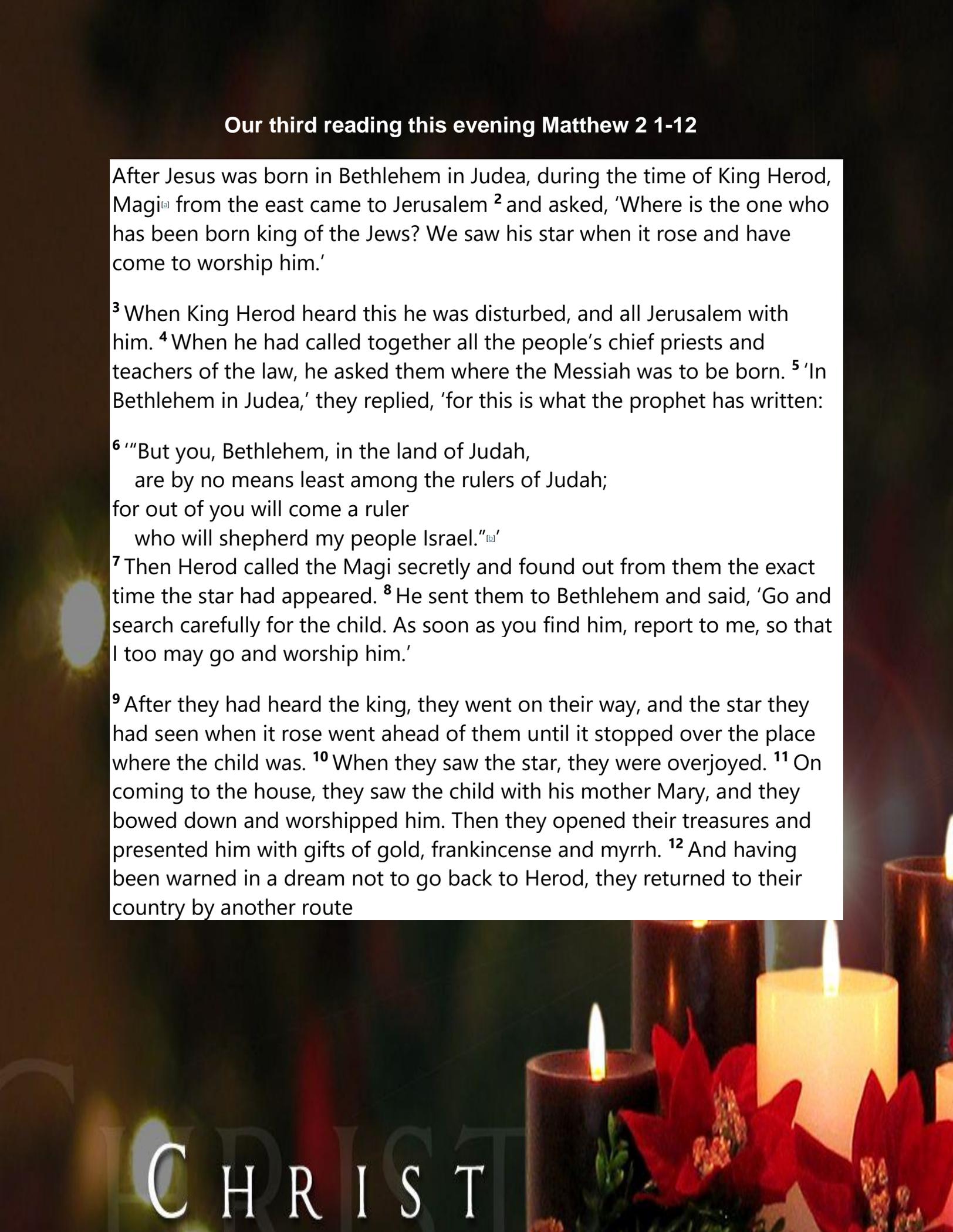
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi¹ from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"'

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route



CHRIST

Our seventh carol is “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger	The cattle are lowing	Be near me, Lord Jesus
No crib for His bed	The poor Baby wakes	I ask Thee to stay
The little Lord Jesus	But little Lord Jesus	Close by me forever
Lay down His sweet head	No crying He makes	And love me, I pray
The stars in the sky	I love Thee, Lord Jesus	Bless all the dear children
Look down where He lay	Look down from the sky	In Thy tender care
The little Lord Jesus	And stay by my side	And take us to Heaven
Asleep on the hay	'Til morning is nigh	To live with Thee there

Our Carol service nativity was about an angel who nearly missed everything because they were also late.

Who here likes to tell other people good news? I know I do. It's fun to share a message with someone when you know it's going to encourage them, make them happy, or give them a reason to celebrate. So, if you like to share good news, and I like to share good news, I am guessing that almost everyone does. And, on that first Christmas Eve, there was some very good news to tell.

The angels on that first Christmas Eve got to share some very good news.

They shared good news with Mary

They shared good news with Joseph.

On the very first Christmas Eve they shared good news with the Shepherds

This news did bring great joy to all the people! They had been waiting for a LONG time for the Messiah, God's chosen messenger, to come. I am not sure they understood fully that not only would the Messiah be a messenger for God, but that he would be God himself—the Lord!

That's the best and greatest news of all: that God came to us as a baby. Jesus came to live with us and to experience everything it means to be a human being. And, just as the shepherds were told to go and see and THEN to go and tell, we are asked to do the same.

It's good that we can celebrate Jesus' birth. The shepherds, too, went to the stable and found the baby Jesus. But the shepherds didn't stay at the stable. They left there and told anyone that would listen about what they had seen and heard. And, the Bible says, all were amazed to hear the story. Let us remember not to be too busy like the angel who nearly missed Christmas and go and share the great news of Jesus birth and we might find that there are more people out there willing to listen and be amazed as well.

Our eighth carol is "The Calypso Carol"

1. See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.
*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*
2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!
O now carry me...
3. Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.
O now carry me...
4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.
O now carry me...

Christmas Blessing.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Have a very happy and safe
Christmas**