

Holy Trinity Academy

Advent Service 2020





Scripture Reading [Pupil 1]:

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!" The angel said to Mary, "The power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God."

Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.



Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?





Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you
O Mary did you know?

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would calm the storm with his hand?**





Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby
You kiss the face of God
O Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day rule the nations?



Did you know that your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great, I Am.



Reflection

[Service Leader: Fr Michael]

Prayers [Pupil 2]:

Teach us obedience, Lord
In every part of our lives
Ears to hear your word
Hands to do your work
Feet to walk your path
A heart for all your people
A mouth to shout your praise
A childlike faith, humility,
Confidence that says
To the possible
And the impossible ...

School response:

**I am the Lord's servant
May it be to me as you have said.
Amen**



Prayers [Rev Lisa]:

When does an ordinary life become extraordinary
An mundane day become revolutionary
A moment in time change history?
When God enters in
Forgives sin
Allows us to begin again
When we repeat those words of Mary
'May it be to me as you say'

'So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'

School response:

**I am the Lord's servant
May it be to me as you have said.
Amen**



Scripture Reading [Pupil 3]:

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.



I have travelled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son



I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now
Be with me now



Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven





Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me





Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven



Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy

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Reflection

[Service Leader: Rev Lisa]

Prayers [Pupil 4]: Lord Jesus, before you were born, you were carried for nine months in your mother's womb. The last part of that time was a difficult journey. You travelled with Mary and Joseph from your home town of Nazareth to the small village of Bethlehem, near Jerusalem. Even in the womb you felt their love. They took great care of you and stopped somewhere each night. Those who welcomed them were blessed by their presence, blessed by God. Bless us as we join in that journey, in our own time, in our own way. We welcome Mary, Joseph and Jesus into our home, into our hearts. Give us joy when Christmas comes again, that Jesus is born, God with us, once in Bethlehem, and now into our own world. Help us to welcome him with love.

School response: Amen



Prayers [Mr Doust]:

Father, at this special time of the year when we remember that first Christmas day when Your dearly beloved Son was manifested in the flesh in the form of a new-born babe, we pray that His love and His peace may spread abroad into the hearts and minds of many lost and hurting people, who feel themselves unloved and who lack that vital peace with God and the incomparable peace of God within, that surpasses all comprehension.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit grant peace in the hearts of all who are searching for answers, as to emptiness in their lives, this Christmas time. We ask this in the name of Jesus,

School response:

Amen



Scripture Reading [Pupil 5]:

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.



While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground

The angel of the Lord came down,





And glory shone around

**“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring**



To you and all mankind.”



'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.



And this shall be the sign:



The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,



and in a manger laid.'



Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus



addressed their joyful song:



'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven



begin and never cease!



Reflection: [Mr Doust]

Prayers [Pupil 6]:

With the shepherds of Bethlehem help us, oh Lord, to stand in vigil on the eve of your Coming, to run with haste to meet you, to see your face in the faces of others and to wake from our sleep as a new world is being born.

With the angels of Bethlehem help us, oh Lord, to tell the whole world of your presence that God is with us!
Let us create peace amongst people and work for justice amongst nations.

With Jesus, the infant Christ, help us, oh Lord, to cherish the hope that is born at Advent, to hear the calling of your people, to nurture the seeds of your Kingdom and through our actions to be messengers of your love in building communities of service and prayer.

School response:

Amen



Prayers [Rev Lisa]:

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with
every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from temptation by the blessing
which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May this Christmas make us happy to be thy children, and bring us closer to You with grateful
thoughts, words and deeds.

School response:

Amen

Final Blessing [Fr Michael]

