

# He is named Prince of Peace

Carol Service

**A service of song, scripture and prayer  
in the light of the Incarnation**

The Parish Church of  
St James the Great, Barrow.

*Welcome*

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

*All pray in silence for a while.*

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**Our Father  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Stand to sing 66*

**Once, in royal David's city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child, so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

***Reading 1 [Isaiah 9:2, 6-7] - Bernice***

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

**9:** <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

God's word is a lantern to our feet  
**and a light to our path.**

*Stand to sing 27*

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.**

Reading 2 [Micah 5:2-4] - Shelagh - Please sit.

The LORD says to his people: <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

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**and a light to our path.**

*We stand to sing 63*

**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.**

**O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!**

***Reading 3 [Matthew 1:18-23] - Joan - Please sit.***

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew

**1:** <sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'

God's word is a lantern to our feet **and a light to our path.**

*We stand to sing 61(vv1,2 &6)*

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

**God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created: *O come...*  
Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *O come...***

**Reading 4 [Luke 2:8-16] - Clare- Please sit**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' <sup>15</sup> When

the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**God's word is a lantern to our feet  
and a light to our path.**

*We stand to sing 76*

**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 heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
And in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake 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 on the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.’**

**Reading 5** [John 1:1-14] - Fr. Jack

*Please remain standing.*

The beginning of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

1:<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. <sup>4</sup> What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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*A short talk follows - please sit.*

**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 th'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 th'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.'***

*We pray...*

Wonderful counsellor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,  
make the whole world know  
that the government is on your shoulders.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father,  
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty Lord,  
**hear our prayer**  
**and fulfil your purposes in us,**  
**as you accomplished your will**  
**in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Blessing*

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**