



Church of  
St. John & St. Philip  
*The Hague*

December 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> 2020

Christmas Eve/Day

Minister: Revd. Michael Roden

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**PRE-SERVICE**

Noels, by Michel-Richard de Lalande

**OPENING HYMN**

Common Praise (CP) 61 – O Come, All Ye  
Faithful (vs. 1,2,6,7)

1. 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.

*Refrain: O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created: *Refrain*

6. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
in the highest! *Refrain*

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

## WELCOME & GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**All and also with you.**

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE & PREPARATION

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## GLORIA

CP 53 - Hark, the herald angels sing

1. 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 the angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

3. 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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

### COLLECT

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this Christmas  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

**Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7** read by Rebecca Stewart

- <sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.

**PSALM**

**CP 64 – Of the Father's love begotten**

1. Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.
2. O that birth forever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.
3. O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing:  
all dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

**Hebrews 1: 1-5, read by Hans van Deemter**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
'You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father'?

Or again,

'I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son'?

**GOSPEL CAROL**

**CP 63 – 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. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
with peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.
3. 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.
4. 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.

**GOSPEL READING**

**John 1: 1-14** *read by Revd Michael Roden*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has 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 concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**SERMON**

Revd Michael Roden

CHOIR ANTHEM

Cradle Song, by John Rutter

1. In Bethlehem, all in a stable,  
Lies a newborn infant mild.  
By his side a virgin mother  
Watches o'er the holy child.  
Jesus lying in the manger,  
Comes to us on earth a stranger:  
*Refrain: Lulla, lullaby;*  
*Angels round you watch will keep.*
2. Saint Joseph stands beside the cradle,  
Fill'd with wonder, awe and love.  
See, the infant King lies sleeping,  
Sent from God in heav'n above.  
Ox and ass before him kneeling,  
Mary's love his sorrows healing: *Refrain*
3. Hosanna in the highest heaven;  
Peace, goodwill to men on earth.  
Seraphim on high in chorus  
Greet the Saviour's joyful birth.  
Mary's voice, in descant blending,  
Joins the heav'nly song unending; *Refrain*

CREED

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and earth is named**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

PEACE

Rev'd. Michael Roden

**CAROL****CP 45 – Away in a Manger**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**INTERCESSIONS**

Revd. Michael Roden

**OFFERTORY****CP 74 – What child is this**

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
the babe, the son of Mary.



3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise your sone on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the sone of Mary.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

#### CAROL

#### CP 60 - Coventry Carol

*Lully, lulla,  
thou little tiny child,  
by by, lully lullay.*

1. O sisters too,  
how may we do  
for to preserve this day  
this poor youngling,  
for whom we do sing  
by by, lully lullay?

2. Herod the king,  
in his raging,  
charged he hath this day  
his men of might,  
in his own sight,  
all young children to slay.
3. That woe is me,  
poor child for thee!  
and ever morn and day,  
for thy parting  
neither say nor sing  
by by, lully lullay!

*Lully, lulla,  
thou little tiny child,  
by by, lully lullay.*

#### **BLESSING**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you this day and evermore Amen.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

Good Christian friends rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!
  
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

Good Christian Friends Rejoice, *by Leo Sowerby*



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