

St Francis of Assisi, Welwyn Garden City – Christmas 2020 Crib Service.

Christmas Eve. 4pm. Zoom.

Thank you for joining us at our Crib Service. We are obviously having to do it differently this year, so let's see what happens!

Beforehand you might like to think about

- *Being dressed as a Mary/Joseph/Shepherd/Star/Animal/Angel*
- *Having a torch or candle nearby*
- *Having a manger and Baby Jesus with you (a box and a doll or teddy will do!)*
- *Make sure you are on mute until we get to the prayers*
- *Please join in the words in bold*

Leader. The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader. Advent has been a time of waiting. We remember how God's people waited in hope for the coming of the Saviour, the Messiah, the promised one, who would set them free. We remember that we are waiting for Jesus to come again. And we are waiting for a time when the world is safe from coronavirus, and we are free to live our lives – to hug, and play, and do so many things we haven't been able to do as normal. We may be sad, or scared, or angry, or worried. But we remember God's promise that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it." At the darkest time of the year, in the darkest night, hope is born in Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
 Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
 In ancient times didst give the law
 In cloud and majesty and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Annunciation

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

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 to us today
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell
 O come to us, abide with us
 Our Lord Emmanuel

The Nativity

You will be invited to turn off the lights in your room and light your candle / turn on your torches, then put Jesus in the manger

**Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright.
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
 Holy infant so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
 Christ the Saviour is born!
 Christ the Saviour is born**

**Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God love's pure light.
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
 Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

Shepherds

Leader. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, upon them has light shined! For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, the Prince of Peace!

**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!"**

**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!”**

Prayers - check on the screen to see when to join in

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

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!**

Thank you for joining us. We wish you a very Happy Christmas.