

Crib Service

Easton

Christmas Eve 2021

The numbers of our carols will be found in our hymn books, as announced.

Our Bible readings have been selected from the following passages:

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 1:1-4, 8-12 and Luke 2:1-20

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM!

The 'City of David'

Why we have come

- We have come here to celebrate the most famous story ever told, the story at the centre of our world—that God came into the world in the person of Jesus, his Son.
- We have come to hear that story told to us again—in the pages of the Gospels and also in the form of a short modern drama.
- We have come to place some figures in our Nativity Crib and to ponder again Jesus' being placed as a baby in a manger—something normally used for feeding animals.
- We have come to hear the 'good news' that was proclaimed to shepherds in the fields below Bethlehem and to travel with them up into the town in order ourselves to worship the Shepherd-King.

Our Reading from the Psalms

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Our Confession

**Almighty God, we thank you for this annual reminder
of your sending your Son, Jesus, into our world,
to be our Shepherd, our Saviour and our King.**

**We are sorry for the all the ways in which we strayed like lost sheep
and have wandered from the right paths.**

**Please forgive us our wrong-doing
and help us to see the wonder of your love shown in the Cross of Jesus,
where he died that we might know your forgiveness and your love.**

**And please send us out from this place
with a new sense of wonder at the Christmas story
and with the joy that comes from receiving such amazing 'good news'.**

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Our Final Act of Worship

Let us go out in the world with the joy of Christ:

We will rejoice for God has made us glad.

Let us go out in the world with the light of Christ:

We will let our 'little lights shine' for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Let us go out in the world with the hope of Christ

**We will take this hope with us in our hearts and share it with others,
day by day.**

Let us go out in the world with the love of Christ.

**We will love one another—our families, friends and neighbours—
because Jesus has loved us!**

Amen

*With my thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this service possible
(to church wardens, our musicians and singers, our readers,
and especially to Judy Bishop for building our 'Nazareth Tent'
and to Cat Kennedy for being our narrator)*

*And with my best wishes to you all
for a peaceful, safe, and joy-filled Christmas*

Revd Peter