



CHRISTMAS DAY 2020

Dear friends,

If you have the Internet, you will find a video to accompany this sheet on YouTube from 8AM on Christmas morning – search for Isle of Man Methodist Church and you will find it on our YouTube channel.

Nollick Ghennal, Christmas blessing to you!

Isle of Man Methodist Staff Team

Opening Prayer

Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God, for his love revealed in the Word made flesh.
 Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God, coming among us and sharing our humanity.
 Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God, filling Mary with the life of the Divine.
 Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God, for our salvation, for bringing joy and peace into our world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hymn: Joy to the world!

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,
 and heaven and nature sing *(repeat)*

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
 Let all their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 repeat the sounding joy *(repeat)*

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love *(repeat)*

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Today's Readings:

Luke 2:1-20

Find a Bible and read the above passage. If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your local minister who will gladly source one for you.

A time of reflection

I love all the festivities, the joy (and the silliness) of this day.

I especially love cracker jokes....here's two of my favourites:

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
 The elf-abet!

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
 Because they were two deer!

I love a good joke - and the occasional bad joke too....

When we think of the Christmas story, there is so much within it, that our response could be to laugh - What a joke!

The King of Kings being born, not in a palace but in a feeding trough - What a joke!

The Holy One, the only person to live completely without sin, born to unmarried parents - What a joke!

The first worshippers for the Son of God, the promised Messiah, not the religious leaders of the age, but the outcasts, the shepherds, the lowest in society - What a joke!

The Magi travelling hundreds of miles across desert, only to pitch up in the wrong place - What a joke!

What a joke! - and yet, in this most divine of comedies, the wisdom of God is made flesh, He comes and lives among us, He comes to set before us the perfect example of holiness, teach us about our heavenly Father, and pave the way through His death and resurrection for us to know Him for ourselves – each one of us.

That's the message of Christmas – celebrating the wisdom of God, which truly is foolishness to the wise.

What is our response?

Do we laugh? Or we see beyond the tinsel and the tree to bow our knee and declare the babe in the manger to be our Lord?

Hymn: Who would think that what was needed

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

Who would think that what was needed
 to transform and save the earth
 might not be a plan or army,
 proud in purpose, proved in worth?
 Who would think, despite derision,
 that a child might lead the way?
 God surprises earth with heaven,

coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon
hosts a holy helpless thing.
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science
span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether,
with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)
Words: From Heaven Shall Not Wait (c) 1987, WGRG,
Iona Community,

Prayers of Intercession

Immanuel, God is with us. He has entered our
darkness with his great light. He comes as our God
and yet as a child. Lord, help us and your whole
church to walk as children of the light.
Teach us to see your presence in each other:
to be aware that what we do to each other we do to
you.

Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary,
be born in us today.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all
people.”
Lord, give peace in the hearts of all, peace in our land,
peace among the nations:
peace in our homes and peace in all our dealings;
peace through him who is the Prince of Peace.

Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary,
be born in us today.

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, you are part of the human
family:
you share our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and
our fears.
Bless our homes with your loving presence, be known
to be with us, our families and our friends.
Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary,
be born in us today.
Amen.

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The 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.*

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels sing!

Sing/ Read /pray / the words below:

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 the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

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, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel:

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:

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A prayer of blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary
and the peace of the Christ- child be yours
this Christmas;
Amen.



Compiled from various sources,
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