

# The Theydon Parishes



## A Village Christmas **St Mary's** **Theydon Bois**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020,  
10.30am & 6pm

*Immanuel, God with us*



**Carol 1: Once in Royal David's city**

Leader Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

Leader Two thousand years ago, a baby was born amongst  
people living with rules imposed by the government of  
the day;  
a world of shortages, outcasts, refugees and asylum seekers.  
Jesus came into this world as a dependent, vulnerable and helpless baby,  
shielded by the care and protection of his parents.

At this Christmas time we hear again the message of the angels,  
and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this  
thing which is come to pass.

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

*Matthew 1.23*

**Carol 2: O little town of Bethlehem**

**Reading 1: The prophets promise the Saviour**

Isaiah 7.14; Jeremiah 23.5 - 6; Micah 5.2, 4; Isaiah 9.6

*Isaiah* The Lord himself will give you a sign:  
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a  
son, and will call him Immanuel.

*Jeremiah* “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for  
David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is  
just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will  
live in safety.  
This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous  
Saviour.

*Micah* Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of  
Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.  
He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the  
Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

*Isaiah* 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.

*All readers* Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

*Torches*

Words: tr J B Trend; Music: John Joubert

Leader Everlasting Father,  
you sent your Son to live amongst us,  
promised by the prophets of old;  
as we celebrate the gift of the Christ-  
child, may he be for us a living hope:

**All Immanuel, God with us.  
Amen.**

*A short silence is kept.*

### **Reading 2: The birth of Jesus**

Luke 2. 1 - 7

### **Carol 3: Silent night**

Leader Everlasting Father,  
in the stillness of the night  
you sent your Son, the Word made  
flesh; as we recognise his presence  
among us, may he quiet our fears in  
uncertain times:

**All Immanuel, God with us.  
Amen.**

*A short silence is kept.*

### **Reading 3: Good news of great joy**

Luke 2. 8 - 14

### **Carol 4: While shepherds watched their flocks**

Leader Everlasting Father,  
you sent your Son, the child in a manger,  
worshipped by shepherds and angels;  
as we draw near to the child in the manger  
may he fill our hearts with joy and peace:

**All Immanuel, God with us.  
Amen.**

*A short silence is kept.*

### **A short reflection by a member of the clergy team**

The choir sings

*Like a candle flame*

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick

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## The Prayers

Leader Jesus, born into a human family,  
we pray for families and households,  
facing Christmas separated from loved ones.  
Help us to support one another in new ways,  
reaching out to the lonely and vulnerable within our communities.  
Jesus, our Immanuel,

**All be with us now and hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
we pray for the homeless and refugees,  
remembering at this season all who lack food or shelter.  
Help us to share generously with others  
that the poor and hungry may be  
satisfied. Jesus, our Immanuel,

**All be with us now and hear our prayer.**

Jesus, born under government restrictions,  
we pray for all in authority,  
facing difficult decisions and challenges day after day.  
Direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace,  
that they may work together for the common good.  
Jesus, our Immanuel,

**All be with us now and hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by angels and shepherds,  
we pray for the mission of the church,  
remembering at this season the message of hope.  
Strengthen us to proclaim good news of great joy  
that your glory may be revealed throughout the world.  
Jesus, our Immanuel,

**All be with us now and hear our prayer.**

Jesus, God with us,  
we pray for all who are sick, or anxious, or bereaved,  
remembering that you came as Prince of Peace.  
Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer,  
that they might find courage and hope in their troubles.  
Jesus, our Immanuel,

**All you know us and love us,  
you share our lives and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Leader Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All**            **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.**

The choir sings

*People look East*

Words: Eleanor Farjeon; Music: Besançon carol arr Malcolm Archer

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**The service continues in the churchyard**

**A retiring collection will be taken in aid of St Mary's Church  
and Shelter**

**Dismissal Gospel: The promise of light and life**

John 1. 1 - 5, 14

*Before*  
**All**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After*  
**All**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Carol 5: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

**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.'**

*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, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

*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.*

## The Blessing

Leader God sent his angels from glory to bring to  
shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth.

**All Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

We have heard his story,  
The story of God's own Son.

**All Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

May he fill you/us with joy and peace  
in the knowledge that he remains  
Immanuel, God with us.

**All Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

And the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
this Christmas time and always.

**All Amen.**

*Original liturgical texts are © RSCM, 2020.*

*Other liturgical texts are adapted from*

*Common Worship Times and Seasons, © The Archbishops' Council, 2006.*