**Morning Prayer 13.12.2020**

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.” *Psalm 130:5*

**Opening Sentences**

O Lord open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen**.

**Song – Here I am to worship**

*Here I am to worship*

*Here I am to bow down*

*Here I am to say that you're my God*

*You're altogether lovely*

*Altogether worthy*

*Altogether wonderful to me*

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross

*Here I am to worship…*

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes, Let me see

Beauty that made this heart adore you

Hope of a life spent with you

*Here I am to worship*

*Here I am to bow down*

*Here I am to say that you're my God*

*You're altogether lovely*

*Altogether worthy*

*Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days

So highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above

Humbly you came to the earth you created

All for love's sake became poor

**Advent candle prayer**

Each week in Advent we light a candle to remind us that Jesus brings light and hope into our world. No matter how dark the world may seem, that light still shines through.

We light this candle to remind us that God can do extraordinary things in our lives. By His spirit broken hearts can be healed, freedom granted, comfort given, and our sadness transformed to praise and joy.

Everything that was created received its life from Jesus, and his life gave light to everyone.

The light keeps shining in the dark, **and darkness has never put it out.**

**Bible Readings**  
  
***Psalm 126***1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**  
**Old Testament reading – *Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end***

1-4 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

8-11 For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection**

**Prayers**

*In our prayers we will pray for the world, the church, our local community, and for those who are in need.*

*At the end of each section we say:*

Lord in Your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever.**

**Notices**

**Song – From the squalor of a borrowed stable**

Through the kisses of a friend’s betrayal,

He was lifted on a cruel cross;

He was punished for a world’s transgressions,

He was suffering to save the lost.

He fights for breath, He fights for me,

Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;

And with a shout our souls are free –

Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He’s standing in the place of honour,

Crowned with glory on the highest throne,

Interceding for His own beloved

Till His Father calls to bring them home!

Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds

Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;

But the Bride will run to her Lover’s arms,

Giving glory to Immanuel!

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,

By the Spirit and a virgin’s faith;

To the anguish and the shame of scandal

Came the Saviour of the human race.

But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,

Shepherds listen as the angels tell

Of the Gift of God come down to man

At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,

Humble servant in the Father’s hands,

Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,

Filled with mercy for the broken man.

Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,

Joys and sorrows that I know so well;

Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –

I will follow my Immanuel.

**Conclusion**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**  
  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Online Giving**

Everything we do in mission and ministry is made possible by the generous support of our church family. We encourage everyone who is a regular member of St Marys to join our planned giving scheme (standing order) as this helps us to plan and budget.

You can now make donations online as a one off or regular gifts, and every penny goes back into enabling our mission and ministry.

Details of how to give online or join the planned giving scheme can be found online @ [www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving](http://www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving)