

## **Worship For Sunday 27th December 2020**

**Prepared by Neil, talk by Alex Chowdhry on Luke 2: 22-38 and Isaiah 40: 1-11. Prayers for the World has been prepared by Wonu.**

**Let us pray:**

**Father God,  
you are the one who leads us  
from darkness into light,  
from captivity into freedom,  
from anxiety into peace,  
from despair into joy.  
Yet we long to break free,  
choosing independence,  
convinced of our own wisdom,  
forgetting your love and grace.  
Forgive us,  
draw close to us,  
embrace us once again  
in your loving arms,  
and enable us to follow you  
in worship and grateful service  
each day of our lives**

**In the stillness we listen and confess.**

**Let your will be done.**

**It's your Kingdom and your glory from the beginning until the end of  
time.**

**Amen**

**We read in John 1**

**<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**The Light has come into the world and the darkness cannot put it out.**

**Let us rejoice!**

[Carols from King's 2016 | #7 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - The Choir of King's College, Cambridge](#)  
[- YouTube](#)

**Let us Worship the one True God, The Living Word, The great "I am",  
Yahweh.**

**This is one of my favourite Christmas carols and I love this version from the film Home Alone. This arrangement is by John Williams (who wrote the music for the film Star Wars, among many others). The harmonies of the alto's and sopranos are beautiful. Turn up the bass setting on your music system, so you can hear the wonderful organ accompaniment.**

Here are the words for you to use as they do not appear on the video.

<https://youtu.be/rjFPM-9u80E>

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

**These words were written by a [Unitarian](#) minister [John Sullivan Dwight](#), editor of *[Dwight's Journal of Music](#)*, wrote the English version of the words in 1855. This version became popular in the United States, especially in the North, where the third verse resonated with [abolitionists](#), including Dwight himself.**

**What a miracle, not just the miraculous birth of Jesus to a virgin and all of the other wonders that happened around this birth, more than that, God became flesh.**

**The God who holds all of creation in his hands. Without the will and the power of God all things would cease to be. The scientists look for the God particle which holds all the matter in the universe together, they will never find it:**

## **Hebrews 11**

**11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for.**

**<sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

**This resource is from the Engageworship website. Please read this introduction before you play the clip below.**

In early 2021 we'll be introducing a new project called Bible Noise, a collaboration with engageworship and Sunil Chandy. Here is an example of one way of approaching a Bible Noise reading - John's prologue (1:1-5). The text is read with different voices, and then those voices overlap, fading in and out over each other. The on-screen text reacts to the spoken words.

This requires a different form of listening - what jumps out to you as words and voices overlap? What emerges from the "noise"? Allow God's word to speak to you in a different way as you listen.

[https://youtu.be/2c5MSqvo\\_gQ](https://youtu.be/2c5MSqvo_gQ)

**Let us sing with praise in our hearts.**

[In the beginning by Joel Payne - Resound Worship](#)

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Hallelujah.**

**Let us sing praise to the Lord.**

[Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation - YouTube](#)

**AMEN**

### **Prayers for the World – prepared by Wonu**

My 'prayers for the world' today is not focused on any country in particular. 2020 will go down as an extraordinary year in history. In 2020, we learned to appreciate the things that really matter, people in your lives, staying healthy and for us Christians, our relationship with God.

So today, could we pls take a minute to be grateful for life, grateful because despite the challenges of this year, we are still here, grateful that we have Jesus to see us through the difficulties of the year, grateful for the hope we have in Christ, grateful that health practitioners selflessly dedicated themselves to either looking after patients or trying to find a cure.

I also want us to spend some time to pray for those who have had a really tough time this year, especially those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost jobs/income, pray for those in authority all over the world who have to make decisions that affect the rest of us because getting it wrong can be so devastating. It's easy to point fingers at the bad jobs they are doing but in truth, they need our prayers, they need the wisdom and direction only our God can offer.

Let's pray

Lord, it has been a tough year, really tough. We have been through lockdown after lockdown, periods of isolation, loss, self-doubt, fear, uncertainty and so many other things that we didn't expect but in all things, we are so grateful that we had you to hold on to and to see us through. Today, we want to thank you for life, for family, for friends, for the NHS, for the doctors, the nurses, Lord pls keep them safe. We also want to pray that you comfort those who have lost loved ones, those who are ill, Lord, pls comfort them at this time. We pray for those who have lost jobs, that you will provide and finally for those in authority who make decisions that affect millions of lives, that you Lord will grant them wisdom to know what to do. In Jesus' name, amen

## **Our talk today is given by Alex Chowdhry – .**

<https://youtu.be/CrrtPiL3CgA>

**With readings from Luke 2: 22-38 and Isaiah 40: 1-11:**

<https://youtu.be/6Ac3Tn700Yw>

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

**Comfort for God's people**

**40 Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.**

**<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.**

**<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
'In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;<sup>[a]</sup>  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.<sup>[b]</sup>**

**<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.**

**<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'**

**<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out.'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
'All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.**

**<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.**

**<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures for ever.'**

**<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,<sup>[c]</sup>  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;**

say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
he gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

**Luke 2: 22-38 NIV**

**Jesus presented in the temple**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'<sup>[b]</sup>), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss<sup>[d]</sup> your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.<sup>[e]</sup> She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Talk, either a link or there will be a separate download on the website.**

**Amen**

**You may have noticed that I use this song a lot. I make no apologies for this, I think the words are right for this time.**

**Be still, I won't be afraid, you silence all my fear.**

**Still – Hillsongs**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zcHHp0GTuc>

**Be still for a few moments.**

**We remember that the one who created us does not stand aloof from our suffering, but shares it with us and somehow transforms it into peace of heart and mind, and an attitude of kindness towards others.**

**Paraphrased from the address by the Reverend Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of the Chapel, Kings College Cambridge (Carols from Kings 2020)**

**The Blessing, I pray for you. Pray it for each other.**

**May God the Father, who made you, keep you**

**May God the Son, who died for you, protect you**

**May God the Holy Spirit, guide you, every step of the way**

**Amen.**