

6PM CHRISTMAS EVE: WORSHIP, STORY-TELLING AND CAROL SINGING

WELCOME!

## Carol:

- 1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, despised and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.



You might like to colour in the pictures during the service, or when you get home.

## **Lighting the Christmas Candle**

The Lord be with you **And also with you.** 

Advent has been a time of waiting, a time to dream of peace, joy and love; a time of hope; a time of promise.

Our time of preparation is nearly over. Today is Christmas Eve and overnight we will celebrate the birth of Jesus.

#### The advent wreath.

As we lit the advent candles each week, we recognised that the world can be dark sometimes, but God gives us light to brighten the darkness. Today we remember that the light of the world has come.

Light the Christ candle.

Today we light the candle that represents Jesus. The Christ candle stands high in the advent wreath. We always look to Jesus to guide us.

The light of Christ shines for all to see.

## Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
We remember your birth in Bethlehem.
We kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth.
Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

# **The Christmas Story**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie! Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by: yet, in your dark streets shining the everlasting light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

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Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes and in a manger laid.'



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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the King of angels: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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Silent night Holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

## Reflection

#### Carol

- 1. Angels from the realms of glory,
  Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
  You who sang creation's story
  Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
  Come and worship Christ the newborn king,
  Come and worship. Worship Christ the newborn king.
- 2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; See there shines the infant light:
- 3. Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne, Gather all the nations to Him; Every knee shall then bow down:
- 4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One.

# **Activity**

### Carol

- 1 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.

# **Prayers**

Let us pray

Jesus, whose mother was Mary we pray for families throughout the world. Give us strength and courage to show our families how much we love them in word and action. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Jesus, cradled in a manger we pray for the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers. Give the people of this land courage and generosity to share what we have been given and help us to ensure that everyone has a safe place in the world. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:

we give thanks for the beauty of creation,
Thank you for the flowers in spring and the stars at night.
Help us to take care of the world
and appreciate your gift of life and beauty.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for the people of the world. Help us to live in love and friendship with each other. Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.** 

Jesus, who comes to us:
we pray for those who are struggling.
We remember the names of those people
in the silence of our hearts.
Give to all, strength and peace in their times of need.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

And in the words that Jesus taught us, we pray.

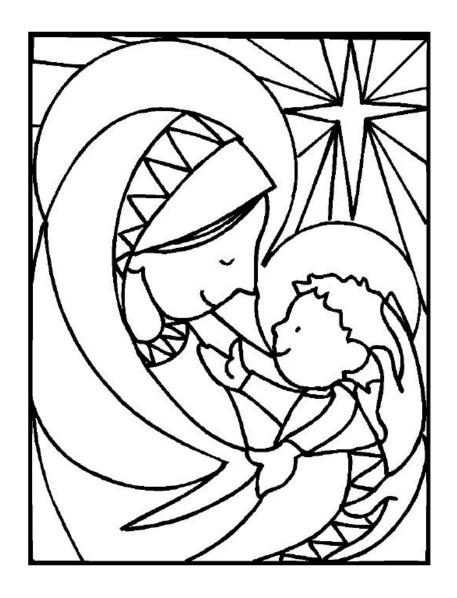
Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.



## Confession

And now let us turn to God and ask his forgiveness

God of Grace
We confess that we have sinned
in what we have thought, and said, and done.
Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen

God forgives you Forgive others Forgive yourselves Approach your God in peace.



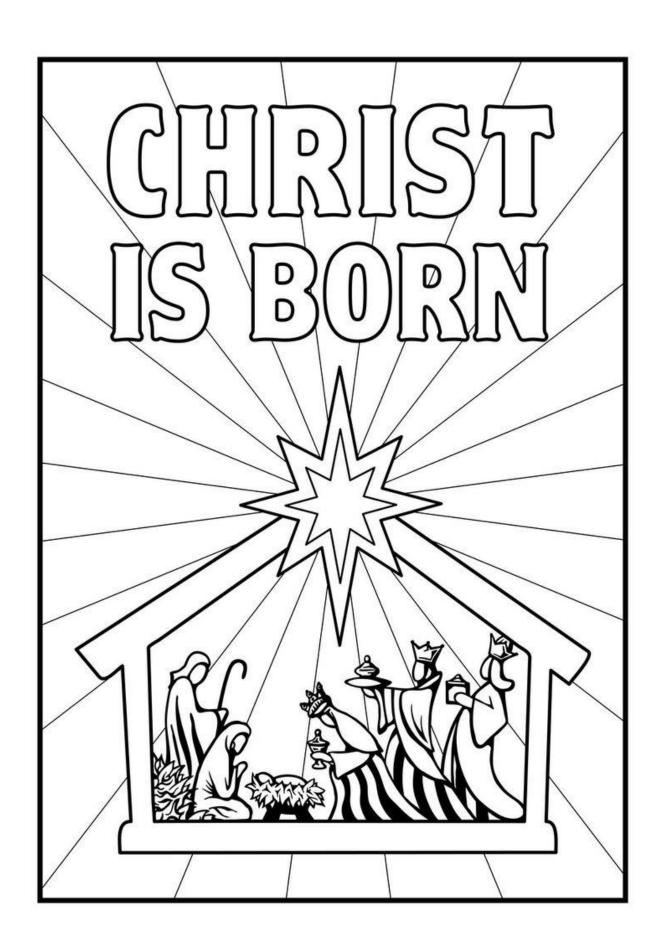
Unto us a child is born, and his name is called the Prince of peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you** 

### Carol

- 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive its king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing,
- 2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let us our songs employ; while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love. 1674-1748 alt. Based on Psalm 98

Blessing



Thank you for joining us this evening. We hope your Christmas Day is filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

We would love to see you again!

Our regular meeting times are:

7.30am 9.00am

However, until the end of January we have ONE service each Sunday at 8.30am.

www.stpaulsahgrove.org.au

