

# Christmas at St Paul's



**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.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**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.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**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.'**



\*\*\*\*\*

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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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.*
  
- 2 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

**CHRIST  
IS BORN**



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](http://www.stpaulsahgrove.org.au)

