**Westfield Nativity Sunday** Kath and Andrew **10.30 am** **13th December 2020**

**Call to worship Isaiah 7 v14**

**Lighting 3 Advent candles**

**People who trusted**

Today is the third Sunday in Advent and we look back to Mary and Joseph who trusted God and brought his Son into the world.

We remember people like Simon Peter and the other disciples and Paul who trusted God and spread the Good news of Jesus Christ as they began the building of His Church.

We light three candles to remember those who waited, those who listened and those who trusted and pray that their light might light our path as we travel through Advent together.

**Lighting of Candle**s

**Let us pray.**

Heavenly Father, help us to trust you totally with our lives so that we can follow the path Jesus set for us. **Amen.**

**Hymn M.P. 539 Once in Royal David’s city**

Once in royal David's city

stood a lowly cattle shed,

where a mother laid her baby

in a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ her little child.

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, and mean, and lowly

lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,

through His own redeeming love;

for that child, so dear and gentle,

is our Lord in heaven above ;

and He leads His children on

to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,

with the oxen standing by,

we shall see Him, but in heaven,

set at God's right hand on high;

there His children gather round,

bright like stars, with glory crowned.

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1818-95) CCLI 150801

**Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

**Notices**, birthday - Nora

**Mission Prayer & Prayer of Dedication**

Dear God, Bless our gifts of money, produce and time – we dedicate all our advent giving to further your work and witness in our world. Amen

1. **Christmas Gifts – The best gift**

What is the best gift you have received?

What is the worst gift you have received unless the person who gave it to you is here?

 What did you do with it? Take to a Coffee morning or give to a raffle?

Gifts are often given at Christmastime as a sign of our love and care for others and a reminder that we are thinking about them. Who, in our community, needs to feel God’s love right now? Who is lonely? Who is tired? Who is struggling?

Is there a gift you could offer them which might be useful to them at this time?

Could you cook a meal or do some baking to deliver to someone living alone? Could you make some cards for your neighbours to wish them a Happy Blessed Christmas?

Could you donate to a local charity supporting homeless people over the winter?

Could you bring items needed for the foodbank and add a note or Christmas card to say you are thinking about and praying for the family they go to over Christmas.

These may seem like simple acts of kindness, but they can make a huge difference to people who need to know that they are loved by God, and those around them – friends, neighbours and church goers in their community.

What is the Best ever gift in the world?

Jesus - so we need to share Him with everyone we can.

**Hymn M.P. 211 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 you 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!’

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88) CCLI 150801

Reading N.T. Luke 2 1-7

1. **Children’s Nativity** – Part of a school nativity last year (with permission)

**Hymn M.P. 62 Born in the night**

Born in the night, Mary's child,

a long way from your home:

coming in need, Mary's child,

born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining Light, Mary's child,

your face lights up our way.

light of the world, Mary's child,

dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's child,

you tell us God is good;

prove it is true, Mary's child,

go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child,

you're coming soon to reign;

King of the earth, Mary's child,

walk in our streets again.

 GEOFFREY AINGER (1925- ) CCLI 150801

1. **Follow the star** – find Jesus

In the bible stories people don’t stumble across Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus and find them by chance, we see how God leads people to find them.

The Angels appeared to the shepherds who were watching their sheep on the hills above Bethlehem. They were so amazed and inspired by what they heard that they immediately left their sheep, something they would never normally do, and went in search for the baby Jesus and his parents.

Some time later, possibly at least 18 months, there was a group of star gazers, known as men of wisdom, wise men, who saw a new star. They believed it was a sign which told of an amazing event, the birth of a great king, and they travelled many miles following the star until it final led them to the home of Joseph and Mary and their young son Jesus.

So, they didn’t really meet the shepherds, but unless we want the second half of a nativity in July it is great that they are all together to visit the Son of God.

As a symbol of our challenge from God to lead people to Jesus you have each been given a star which will be hung on the Christmas tree. So, we invite you to write a persons name or a particular situation which you want us all to pray for. They will not be read out but our prayers of intercession will include them.

Offering prayer is one of the important ways we can help people to keep Jesus at the centre of Christmas

**Reading** What a smile

God made the stars,

And hung them in the sky.

They all began to twinkle,

Shall I tell you why?

God smiled at his stars,

For he loved them through and through.

It’s amazing what a smile can do!

A sad looking star

Was hanging in the sky.

I’m afraid he couldn’t twinkle,

Shall I tell you why?

When God smiled at his stars

That star hid his face from sight.

It’s amazing how he faded to a tiny spot of light!

Sparkling stars couldn’t help him,

Nor an angel flying by.

They couldn’t make him twinkle,

Shall I tell you why?

Only baby Jesus,

With God’s love upon his face,

Could brighten up the special star –

And the human race!

**Prayers of intercession**

**Hymn M.P. 393 Joy to the world**

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare Him room

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

your sweetest songs employ

while fields and streams, and hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of His righteousness

the wonders of his love,

the wonders of his love,

the wonders, wonders of His love,

ISAAC WATTS (1674-1748) CCLI 150801

**Shared Grace**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of us today and for ever more. Amen.