



Presbytery of Gippsland

Lessons & Carols 2020

Welcome (Chair of Presbytery – Ron Gowland)

I would like to warmly welcome you to the first ever Gippsland Lessons and Carols Service. Tonight, came out of an idea of how we could still have our carols during the restrictions we have experienced this year. In a time when online services have become more comfortable, we have a unique opportunity for connecting all of our congregations across Gippsland into one service that we can share together. A sharing of God's love across time and place. Some parts of this service will be the very traditional, some will be not so traditional. Thank you for joining us on this special occasions and God's blessing on you and your families in this Christmas Season.

Acknowledgment of Country (Rev. Jennie Gordon – Presbytery Minister)

An acknowledgement of Country for all of Gippsland

Theme (Rev. Arnie Wierenga – Presbytery Minister)

This service gives a 'history with a thread of meaning'; demonstrating in an evening how our faith tradition traces the activity of God's liberating grace through the generations of the earth. It is the Christmas Season, so the focus of the story is the birth of Jesus: God's irretrievable commitment to the human community. This service explores the meaning of the incarnation in sharing good news, the broad scope of God's love, and the continual presence of God's love in caring for others, in adversity, and in our place (where Christmas is a summer festival!)

A Brief History (Deb Bye – Presbytery Minister)

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at the King's College Chapel in Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of King's Chapel after experience as an army chaplain, which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols would be a more uplifting occasion. The 1918 service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his cathedral in Truro at 10 pm on Christmas Eve, 1880. A. C. Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop'. Milner-White used Benson's plan, but wrote the now classic Bidding Prayer to set the tone at the beginning. Since then the spoken parts, which provide the backbone of the service, have only occasionally been changed. The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War.

Many listen at home, some are busy with their own preparations for Christmas; others make time to sit down, either alone or with friends, and join in with the congregational carols, perhaps having previously printed out this order of service. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons. ‘The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘through the windows and the words of the Bible’.

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE – Rosemary Rouse (Boolarra)

Centering Prayer (Cathie Halliwell – Camping Resource Worker)

Let us pray,
Eternal and loving God,
wonderfully creating us in your own image,
becoming human in Jesus,
sharing the flesh and blood of our humanity.
So fill us with your spirit that we may come to share in your divinity;
and that in the company of those who knew your birth among us, we may sing glory and
know your peace.
This we pray in the name of Jesus of Bethlehem and Egypt,
of Nazareth and Jerusalem. Amen.

OPENING HYMN – Soloist Mrs Jenny Batten

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 through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood’s pattern:
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,

tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for our sadness,
and he shares in our gladness.

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;
when, like stars, his children, crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Words: C. F. Alexander Music: H. J. Gauntlett;

THE BIDDING PRAYER – Rev. Sue Stott (Sale)

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this time in many places across Gippsland, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity within the Church Jesus came to build, and especially in our Presbytery of Gippsland.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no person can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**

CAROL: The North Wind (Traralgon Choir)

Words: John Wheeler Music: William G James

**The north wind is tossing the leaves.
The red dust is over the town;
The sparrows are under the eaves,
And the grass in the paddock is brown;
As we lift up our voices and sing,
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.**

**The tree ferns in green gullies sway;
The cool stream flows silently by;
The joy bells are greeting the day,
And the chimes are adrift in the sky,
As we lift up our voices and sing,
To the Christ-child the heavenly King.**

FIRST LESSON – Mrs Dot Teague (Moe/Newborough)

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his descendants will bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (NLT)

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

¹¹"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

"The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

¹⁴Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly,
grovelling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁷And to the man he said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.
All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.
¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
though you will eat of its grains.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
will you have food to eat
until you return to the ground
from which you were made.
For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return.”

Prayer - Mrs Irene Hood (Yallourn North)

God our Creator, we give you thanks for the wonderful gift of life, with all its challenges and opportunities. But we so often worship the things you have created, rather than glorifying you. Turn our hearts to praise and serve you as you deserve, through Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

CAROL - Ding Dong! Merrily On High: Rev. Barb Strickland (Stratford)

**1. Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel-singing.
Glo-----ria,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo-----ria,
Hosanna in excelsis!**

**2. E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen:
Glo-----ria,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo-----ria,**

**3. Hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme
Your e'entime song, ye singers.
Glo-----ria,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo-----ria,
Hosanna in excelsis!**

SECOND LESSON – Shallimar (Leadership Development @ Yinnar South)

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his descendants shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁵Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. ¹⁶“This is what the LORD says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that ¹⁷I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. ¹⁸And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

Prayer

Almighty God, we confess that we have turned away from you, bringing judgment upon ourselves and upon the world in which we live. Thank you for the promise in Scripture of ultimate victory over sin, death and all the powers of evil. **Amen.**

CAROL: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

*Come and worship, 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;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]**

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]**

THIRD LESSON: Rev. Ian Turnnidge (Cowes/Phillip Island)

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NLT)

²The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.

⁶For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His government and its peace
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!

Prayer

Merciful God, we praise you for revealing yourself to Abraham, promising to bring salvation to the whole world through his offspring. Give us a deeper understanding of how this has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

CAROL: O Little Town Of Bethlehem (Churchill)

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!**

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

FOURTH LESSON: Ms. Susan Swann (Johnsonville)

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 (NLT)

A Branch from David's Line

11 Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ He will delight in obeying the LORD.

He will not judge by appearance
nor make a decision based on hearsay.

⁴ He will give justice to the poor
and make fair decisions for the exploited.

⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;
the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.

The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,
and a little child will lead them all.

⁷ The cow will graze near the bear.
The cub and the calf will lie down together.
The lion will eat hay like a cow.

⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra.
Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.

⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,
for as the waters fill the sea,
so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.

Prayer: Mr. Milton Sheilds (Lake Tyers Camp Park Committee Secretary)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of God, we acknowledge you as the Spirit-filled king,
sent to establish God's righteousness and faithfulness in all creation. May your kingdom come
in all its fullness and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

CAROL: Once in Royal David's City (September Camp 2019 at Boolarra)

**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 thro' all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
thro' 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;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

FIFTH LESSON: Mr. Ron Camier (Morwell)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38 (NLT)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"

²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Prayer: Mr. David Lade (Morwell)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, yet born of Mary, ruler of an eternal kingdom, yet living as one of us, help us to ponder this great and mighty wonder and to worship you as the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.

CAROL - Unto Us Is Born A Son: Rev. Barb Strickland (Stratford)

**Unto us is born a Son,
King of Quires supernal:
See on earth His life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.**

**Christ, from heav'n descending low
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be cradled in the manger,
Be cradled in the manger.**

**Of His love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory!
Might lead us up to glory!**

SIXTH LESSON: Mr. John Aldridge (Trafalgar)

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

The Birth of Jesus

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ²(This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

Prayer

Son of God, born in a stable, laid in a manger, no place is too low or mean for you to enter. Come to us and dwell with us, filling us with your love, your peace, your Spirit, now and always. Amen

CAROL: Silent Night (Traralgon Choir)

**1 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.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:**

glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant, beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

4 Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King,
"Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

SEVENTH LESSON: (Glengarry)

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16 (NLT)

The Shepherds and Angels

⁸That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹²And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

Prayer

Father, the shepherds believed the word that was spoken to them and hurried off to find their saviour king. May we who have come to Jesus be like them in spreading the message about him, glorifying and praising you all our days. Amen.

CAROL: While Shepherd Watched their flocks (Ms. Diane Sargent, Darnum)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,

**an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

**"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

**"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 simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."**

EIGHTH LESSON: (Rosedale)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT)

Visitors from the East

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, with Simeon we greet your Son as the Suffering Servant, who was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. Thank you that he willingly took the punishment due to us, so that we might find pardon and be reconciled to you. Amen.

CAROL: We Three Kings (Churchill Youth Group at St, Matt's Op Shop Yinnar)

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]**

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star. [Refrain]**

NINETH LESSON: Rev. Deacon Peter Batten – Presbytery Minister
St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14 (NLT)

Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

3 God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. **8** John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. **9** The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. **11** He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **12** But to all who believed him and accepted him,

he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

CAROL: O Come All Ye Faithful (Young Women’s Ministry)

**1 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.**

Refrain:

**O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**2 True God of true God,
Light of light eternal,
our lowly nature he hath not abhorred;
born of a woman,
here in flesh appearing. [Refrain]**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above:
“Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!” [Refrain]**

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING: Rev. Jennie Gordon (Presbytery Minister)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CAROL: Hark! the herald-angels sing

(Dalkeith Aged Care Congregation – Traralgon)

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]**

**3 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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]**