**Service of Readings and Carols 22nd Dec 2024**

READER1 - Mark

READER2 – Guiliana (and prayer)

READER3 – Bec

READER4 – Margaret Robinson

READER5 - Taj

**THE PREPARATION -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0)

MARK - Welcome to our Christmas Sunday service of readings and carols

**CAROL - O come O come Emmanuel**

ADVENT CANDLE with video - Monty

**FIRST READING: the promise** Isaiah 42:1-7 - MARK

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. (Isa 42:1-7)*

PRAYER – Guiliana

SECOND READING – Guiliana

***Micah 5****[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=micah%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22635a)*]Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us.  
They will strike Israel’s ruler  on the cheek with a rod. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”* ***3****Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.*

***4****He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.*

**CAROL - O little town of Bethlehem**

***THIRD* READING:  Jesus is born** - READER 3 – Bec

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.  This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.  All went to their own towns to be registered.  Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.*

*He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.  While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.  And she face birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7*

CHILDREN **VIDEO** –Sally: <https://open.life.church/items/250230-the-very-first-christmas-video>

CHILDREN PRESENTATION – Robyn and Sally

**SONG JINGLE BELLS (Jesus version)**

Kids Out

**FOURTH READING:  The Shepherds** **READER 4 Margaret**

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around then, and they were terrified.  But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”  And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those who he favors!’*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”  So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. Luke 2:8-16*

**CAROL     Hark the Herald Angels sing**

SPOKEN WORD – He’s just a baby [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jRILcUezmM&t=81s*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jRILcUezmM&t=81s)

**ITEM - Mary did you know**

**FIFTH READING:  The Wise Men** READER 5 - Taj

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?  For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”  When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.  They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea: for so it has been written by the prophet:  Then Herod secretly called for the wisemen and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.  Then, he sent them to Bethlehem saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”  When they had heard the king, they set out and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at it’s rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.  When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.  Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matt.2:1-11*

**VIDEO** – WHAT SHALL WE GIVE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH9nK_9OBDg>

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER – John Jansen

**CAROL – The first Noel**

**SEVENTH READING: with 3 readers**

**READER 4- Margaret***. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child.  All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.  Then, the shepherds went back to their fields, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen. Luke 2:17-20*

**READER 5 - Taj** *The wisemen returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. Matt.2:12*

**READER 3 - Bec** *An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, “Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him.  So get up, take the child and his  mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave."  So, Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. Matt.2:13-15*

MESSAGE – Joy and adoption Mat.1:18-25

**VIDEO** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9WfERxyjPk>

**CAROL     “O holy Night”**

BENEDICTION

CHOIR – Seated on stage

**Carols to be used**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

O come O come Emmanuel

O Holy Night

The first noel

Jingle Bells (Jesus version)

O little town of Bethlehem

Mary did you know - item