

# Christmas Day

## The Rev'd Dr Sheryl Anderson

### Readings

Isaiah 9:1-6

Titus 2:11-14

**John 1:1-18**

*Yea Lord, we greet thee  
born this happy morning*

Today we sing 'O, come, all ye faithful' including the verse that has the line, *Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing*, - as neat a precis of the prologue to John's Gospel as you could hope to find. '...the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

Yet when we reflect on risk God took; to come as a vulnerable child, born into an unsafe and uncertain world, into occupied territory without medical care or sanitation, doesn't it make you wonder why? Surely there had to be an easier way.

Helen Waddell's novel *Peter Abelard*, about the great medieval theologian famous for his love affair with Heloise, has a scene in it. Peter is walking in the woods with his friend Thibault. Thibault is sharing the insight that made him want to be a priest: he points to a fallen log that has been sawn through the middle. "That dark ring there," he says, pointing to the exposed trunk, "It goes up and down the whole length of the tree. But you only see it where it is cut across. That is what Christ's life was; the bit of God that we saw."

God didn't enter into our world on that first Christmas, God has always been here. The incarnation – God becoming human – is just God's way of enabling us to see, cut into a moment of history, what God is really like.

'God is Christlike and in God there is no **unChristlikeness** at all.'

A blessed Christmas to us all.

### **O Come all ye Faithful**

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest

O come, let us adore Him (x3)

Christ the Lord!

Yea Lord, we greet thee

born this happy morning

God of God, Light of Light

Jesu, be glory given

Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb

Word of the Father

Very God, Begotten, not created

Now in flesh appearing

# Christmas Day

## Prayer

Let us pray

Gracious God:

here amid the decorations on your Son's birthday,  
we remember people who, like Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem,  
have nowhere nice to live,  
or nowhere to live at all;  
homeless through natural disaster  
or mistakes or misdeeds or misfortune.  
We pray for Christian Aid, Crisis, Shelter, Oxfam ....  
and all the people and organisations that try to help.

We remember those who are ill, at home or in hospital,  
especially those known to us personally,  
and the people who are taking care of them

We remember all those who have sad thoughts today  
despite the festival  
because they are not able to be in the place they call  
home,  
or because loved ones are not able to be in the  
place called home with them.  
Give them today happy memories  
some good friends  
and the certainty of homecoming or reunion  
in this world or the next.

We pray for all who go in fear of violence even on Christmas  
Day, and for those business it is to try and reassure them:  
those serving in the armed forces, police officers, and good  
neighbours, and the world's peace-makers.

We pray for everyone today suffering remorse for the past,  
and admit before you the things that trouble our own con-  
science;  
we pray for all who by their faith, and your grace, are able to  
speak your word of forgiveness and hope,  
and preach the good news that, because of Jesus,  
we know you are alongside and on our side  
and have been, all along. Amen.

O come all ye faithful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5rMQ6P12WY>

We pray for those we know who, this  
day, feels as though God is absent.

For those unable to celebrate the  
Saviour's birth.

We pray for the homeless and vulnera-  
ble who struggle to find shelter. For  
those seeking asylum and safety to be  
met by "no vacancy" signs.



YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral



Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral

