

Boxing Day

Linda Pillow

Readings

Psalm 62

Luke 2:13-20

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Sounds of wonder fill the sky, With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life, Shelters in a stable.

“What’s occurring ?” to quote a popular T.V. sitcom ‘Gavin and Stacy’

The shepherds on the hillside near Bethlehem would certainly have said something similar, when a bright light shone in the night sky and revealed itself as a host of angels. Loudly proclaiming an event which separated the world into ‘before’ and ‘after’.

Shepherds in biblical times were considered to be amongst the lowest in Jewish society. Living rough outside with their animals, unable to comply with the purity laws, they were ranked alongside tax collectors and prostitutes as outcasts, unclean and unacceptable. So perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised that they were the first to be directed to the stable. In fact it makes them seem wholly appropriate set against the emphasis that Luke puts on Jesus’ care for the outcasts of society, in His ministry.

This is re-inforced by Paul in the verses from 1 Corinthians 1.

“God did indeed choose the foolish, the weak, the lowly and the despised because He knows that He can be seen and heard more clearly, believed more sincerely, trusted more implicitly and that through these folk His love can break into our world to bring peace and joy. As it was then and is now and forever more”.

Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus the Christ child.
May we feel the joy, the wonder and the mystery that those rough uncomplicated shepherds experienced.

Let us pray for the wisdom and strength, for kindness and empathy that we may draw all those on the edges of society closer to knowing the joy and the peace of the Good News, the promise of renewal of all Creation.

Amen.

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Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way,
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
Given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion.
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of history.

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Joy has dawned upon the world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zqAxtZvOEU>

We pray and remember all for whom
this year has brought sorrow, grief and
separation.

For the joy of new friendships and
togetherness we give thanks.

For generosity and the gift of time
we give thanks.



Wirral Methodist Churches
New Song Wirral



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