



St. Luke's Church
Maidenhead

Crib Service

at 4.00 pm, on Christmas Eve



This is a very special night. Children will be alert, hoping to catch the arrival a special visitor in their homes. If they have been good all year... well, they may be rewarded!

As Christians, we celebrate the arrival of an even more special person into the world at Christmas. We remember with joy the birth of Jesus, who was called the Christ, the Messiah, a light in a dark world.

During this service we will remember not only that Christ is light, but that he is the Light of the world, born as a human being at Christmas time.

We will pray that he will shine in us. We will remember and pray for the needs of the world. A collection will be taken in aid of The Children's Society, to help support their work among needy children.

We will each receive a candle to remind us that Jesus, who is God, cares for us personally, and longs to bring His light into our lives, not just at Christmas, but for ever.

The lights will be dimmed at the start of the service

The world was in darkness
and nobody knew
the way to the Father as you and I do;
they needed a light
that would show them the way,
and the bright light shone on Christmas Day.

Greeting

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

All **to live in his marvellous light.**

A candle is lit

Today we remember Jesus and the story of
his birth

All **Jesus is our King**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world

All **Jesus is our Way**

With Jesus even dark places are light

All **Jesus is the Truth**

In Jesus we shall live for ever

All **Jesus is our Life.**

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee to-night.

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 Emmanuel.



The Christmas story

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

Address

Prayers

Thanksgiving

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;
born a child,
you are one with us.

All **Glory to God in the highest**

Glory to Christ, Son of David;
born to rule,
you reign in our hearts.

All **Glory to God in the highest**

Glory to Christ, Son of man;
born to save,
you are the light of the world.

All **Glory to God in the highest**

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Carol and Collection

See him alying on a bed of straw;
draughty stable with an open door,
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The prince of glory is his name.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies.
Shepherds swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world.

Mine are riches from thy poverty,
From thine innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by thy death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
Sing the Bethl'hem's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

God shines in your hearts:

Praise to Christ our light!

Christ is the light of the world!

Praise to Christ our light!

Go, in the power of the Spirit,
to bring light to others:

Praise to Christ our light!

**A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas,
from everyone at St. Luke's Church**

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