

**St Mary's
North Melbourne**



**Nativity Service
Christmas Eve**

WELCOME

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light! On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned! Jesus, Light of the World.

All: Let your light shine in us.

HYMN *Once in Royal David's City*

1

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.

2

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.

3

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.

4

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

OPENING PRAYER

For the beauty of each new day,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of the sun, warming and bringing life,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of love, for our families and friends,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of truth, fighting against evil,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of goodness for all who are kind to those who need help,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of wisdom, for teachers and schools,
Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light of Christ, shining across our land, across the world and into our
hearts,

Lord of all,

All: We thank you.

For the light we have been given, that is with us now and that shines in our
hearts,

All: We thank you.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

ST LUKE TELLS US ABOUT HOW JESUS WAS BORN.

About that time the Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their own home town to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's home town, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her firstborn son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

For the word of the Lord..

Thanks be to God

CAROL *Away in a Manger*

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 side until morning is nigh.

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

A CHRISTMAS STORY

THE PRAYERS

Leader: Today we have come to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World. We will remember and pray for children who have little light in their lives children who have become refugees, seeking safety but often meeting with prejudice; children who are bullied, anxious to fit in, but teased, often for no reason, children who are runaways, trying to escape from conflict at home.

All: Loving God, source of all light, help us to reflect your light in our world, and to banish the darkness wherever we meet it. Amen.

Leader: We are all part of God's Family, and so we say together the Family Prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

CAROL *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*

1.
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.

2.
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.

3.
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.

4.
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
their great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels
the perseverance of the wise men
the faith of the shepherds
the obedience of Joseph and Mary
and the peace of the Christ Child
be with you this Christmas
and throughout the coming year.
Amen.

CAROL *Silent Night*

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds first saw the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

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