

NKMC WORSHIP FROM HOME  
27/12/20

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

God gives you  
The heart of Mary  
That you may ponder this story and treasure it in your heart  
The joy of the Magi  
That you may open yourself to God and give God the gift of your life  
The wonder of the shepherds  
That you may know that heaven and earth are filled with God's glory and peace

Hymn 224 (STF) As with gladness men of old

<https://youtu.be/UB8rKNrlpDQ>

Prayer led by Stuart McGregor

Matthew 2: 1-12 read by Stuart McGregor

Hymn 205 (STF) It came upon the midnight clear

<https://youtu.be/SiG2tPdWVwU>

Sermon

Hymn 222 (STF) Who would think that what was needed

<https://youtu.be/MwCyLamhFrk>

Prayer

Eternal God

In Jesus  
You, the creator of all things  
Enter into your creation.  
You, the timeless one  
Become subject to the world of time.  
You, who fill all things  
Become flesh and make your home among us.

In Jesus  
You share human experience to the full  
You face  
The threats to survival

The horrors that destroy  
The suffering that crucifies

Herod was determined to destroy Jesus  
We are aware of the threats that endanger us  
Especially the many consequences of living with the Coronavirus

We pray  
For those who have died;  
For those who are suffering from the infection now and those suffering from the  
consequences of having been infected.  
For those who have been bereaved;  
For those who are lonely because of the lockdown;  
For those who made plans and preparations to see those they love over Christmas,  
then had to scrap the plans and undo the preparations;  
For those who have lost homes, jobs, livelihoods;  
For those who have no idea where they will find the money to get through the next  
few weeks, days, hours;  
For those who are under pressure, working long hours at full capacity  
In the health service  
In care homes  
In schools  
We pray for those suffering the consequences of the Coronavirus

Jesus became a refugee  
We pray for refugees  
For those who take dangerous journeys  
On packed boats  
With inadequate supplies of food and water  
And no real sense of how to navigate to their destination  
Or those who travel in hot, airless containers  
Where they try to send final texts to their loved ones  
Knowing that they will not see them again  
We pray for refugees

Mary gave birth to her firstborn child, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in  
a manger

We pray for those who have just become parents  
Fill their hearts with love for their children  
Give them all the strength they need  
And may they find joy, delight and wonder  
In their children  
And in your amazing gift of new life

Jesus grew, became strong and was filled with wisdom  
Your favour rested upon him.  
We pray for our children

May they too, become strong and wise  
May they know that your favour and blessing rests upon them  
That they are enfolded in your generous love  
And in that assurance may they find freedom and life.

And a few moments of quiet  
We bring our own prayers to God

We remember in your presence those who have died  
May we with them  
At our journey's end  
Be brought to where we offer the gift of our lives to you  
And may we find  
That you accept and are open to us  
That you make space for us in your dwelling place  
And may we be overwhelmed with a joy that is made complete in you

We gather our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer

Our Father  
Who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom  
The power and the glory for ever and ever  
Amen.

When the angel announced the birth of your son  
They said it was good news of great joy.  
When the Magi arrived at the home of Jesus  
They were overwhelmed with joy.  
Later, when he got near to the cross  
Jesus told his friends  
That his desire for them  
Was that their joy be complete.

This time is a time of joy  
    A time of glad tidings  
At this time  
Our hearts are warmed  
Because your son is Emmanuel  
God with us

In him heaven has touched the earth  
And the earth can never be quite the same again  
In him you are revealed  
Because he is close to your heart and has made you known  
In him we are forgiven

You have set us free  
From guilt

You have set us free  
From that within  
Which covers up your presence  
And stops us from seeing  
That you are deep inside  
Working for our peace and joy

You have set us free  
From that within  
Which prevents us from co-operating with your inner presence  
And holds us back from flourishing and being most fully  
ourselves

You have given us assurance  
That through Jesus  
We have peace with you  
We are enfolded in your generous love  
Drawn into your empowering embrace  
And given the confidence  
That a place has been prepared for us  
With the whole creation  
In your heavenly home

This time is a time of inexpressible joy  
A time of glad tidings.

We bring our prayers  
In the name of the child born in Bethlehem  
The wonderful counsellor  
The mighty God  
The everlasting father  
The prince of peace

AMEN.

Hymn 330 (STF) Joy to the world, the Lord is come

<https://youtu.be/6oOwa0CWVVQ>

Blessing

God comes to you now  
Humbly asking for room  
In the stable of your heart  
In the manger of your soul  
That the word may become flesh once again  
In you  
As you give birth to the life of God  
And bear Jesus and his love to the world

The blessing of God, Creator, Saviour and Spirit be with you now and always

AMEN