

Opening

Christmas child, you stand at our stable door,
bearing the unwrapped gift of terrible, unrelenting love.
You will us all to be born again, again, again.

(Jim Hughes)

Be Still

For a few moments try to be still in body and mind.

Readings

Suggested readings for each day are on the back page

Prayers

Spend a few moments praying your own prayers

The Word became words, millions of words,
tumbling off pages, running across screens,
communication, explaining, informing,
amusing, tedious,
arguing, pompous, tentative, authoritative,
confused, hating, loving.
The Word became a human being.
The Word is in the world.
Thanks be to God.

(Margaret Harvey)

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.

Closing Prayer

*You may wish to pray this twice, once for yourself and once
for those for whom you have prayed this day.*

The wisdom of the wonderful counsellor guide me,
the angels of the Lord of hosts guard me,
the strength of the mighty God uphold me,
the love of the everlasting Father enfold me,
the joy of the Prince of peace be mine,
this Christmas and for ever.
Amen.

(Ian Cowie)

Readings for the Week

Christmas Day:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. *(John 1:14)*

Sunday:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *(Isaiah 9:6)*

Monday:

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. *(1 John 5:11)*

Tuesday:

You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. *(Luke 1:14)*

Wednesday:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. *(Isaiah 7:14)*

Thursday:

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! *(2 Corinthians 9:15)*

Friday:

“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” *(John 1:29)*

Saturday:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests. *(Luke 2:14)*

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich



Unto to Us a Son is Born