



# CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VIENNA

A Service for the  
**Blessing of the Christmas Crib**  
with the distribution of the light from  
the *Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem*

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives Jesus brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise up our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,  
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;

**Jesus is our King.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;

**Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever:

**Jesus is our Life.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel  
in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

**Amen.**

## READING

I bring you good news of great joy:  
**a Saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.**

Unto us a child is born,  
**unto us a Son is given. Alleluia**

Hear the words of St Luke:

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. *(Luke 2. 15-16)*

## REFLECTION

### READING: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
“glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day  
is born of David’s line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God,  
who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.”

*We make our way to the manger scenes to place the figures in the manger  
and bless the cribs.*

#### **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 heavens 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 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.**

#### **CAROL: STILLE NACHT**

**Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. “Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh’ schlaf in himmlischer Ruh’!”**

**Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Hirten erst, kundgemacht!  
durch der Engel Halleluja tönt es laut von Fern’ und Nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da! Christ, der Retter ist da!**

**Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
lieb’ aus deinem göttlichen Mund da uns schlägt die rettende Stund’:  
Christ in deiner Geburt. Christ in deiner Geburt**

#### **PRAYERS**

*Ending with the Lord’s Prayer...*

#### **FINAL BLESSING**

*After the service families are invited to collect the light from the Church of  
the Nativity in Bethlehem.*

*The people and clergy of Christ Church wish you and yours a blessed  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

