

S[†]Andrew's Kirk Ella

Morning Prayer
27th December 2020

Welcome – we are glad to see you. We meet to hear God speak through his Word, to thank him for his goodness to us, to bring our own needs before him, to pray for his world, and to encourage each other. Our aim is to encounter the living God together, through his Son Jesus Christ, and to discover in our daily experience the difference that a relationship with heaven makes to our lives.

Theme: What is your life? James 4:14-15

¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' (NIV)

Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you!

from Revelation 15:3-4, NIV

Hark, the herald-angels sing

glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a Virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
 hail, the incarnate Deity,
 pleased as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark, the herald-angels sing
 glory to the new-born King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
 hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that man no more may die,
 born to raise the sons of earth,
 born to give them second birth.
 Hark, the herald-angels sing
 glory to the new-born King.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), George Whitfield (1714-1770),
 Martin Madan (1726-1790)
 SG 352

Confession

Our heavenly Father thank you that you love us and care for us all the time. We know that this week we have not always lived the way you tell us. We have done wrong things and not done all the good things we should have done. Only you can save us, so please forgive us and help us to live as your friends. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

**O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
 this is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
 before us breaks a new and glorious morn.
 Fall on your knees!
 O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine!
 O night when Christ was born!
 O night divine!
 O night, O night divine.
 Fall on your knees!**

*O hear the angels voices!
 O night divine!
 O night when Christ was born!
 O night divine!
 O night, O night divine!*

O holy night! A mother holds her baby,
 a source of joy to the whole human race!
 Peace to the world will be the gift he offers,
 sing grateful thanks to this child full of grace.
 The King of kings, a tiny child before us,
 in all our troubles, born to be our friend.
 Fall on your knees!
 O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine!
 O night when Christ was born!
 O night divine!
 O night, O night divine.
 Fall on your knees!

John S Dwight (1813-1893) adapted by Christine B McCann (born 1951)
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Reading: Proverbs 16:1-6

¹ To humans belong the plans of the heart,
 but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue.

² All a person's ways seem pure to them,
 but motives are weighed by the LORD.

³ Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
 and he will establish your plans.

⁴ The LORD works out everything to its proper end –
 even the wicked for a day of disaster.

⁵ The LORD detests all the proud of heart.
 Be sure of this: they will not go unpunished.

⁶ Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for;
 through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided. (NIV)

Sermon

Prayers

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.

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear -
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged:
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Can we find a friend so faithful,
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness -
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 Burdened with a load of care?
 Jesus is our mighty Saviour
 He will listen to our prayer!
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In His arms He'll take and shield you,
 Find your strength and comfort there.

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.***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.