

MIDNIGHT MASS

HYMN 81 **Once in royal David's city**

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Bible readings in Advent have prepared us to celebrate the coming of the Lord. His people longed for him, and we know the joy of living with him here and now. So, we understand Isaiah's prophecy as greeting the birth of a child whose new kingdom of righteousness will last for ever.

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

The new morning of the world has dawned, says this writer. As we learn how to live in this bright new light, in gratitude for the first coming of Jesus who has made us his own, we await the greater glory when Christ will come again.

HYMN 89 **While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

Luke, the master story-teller, gives us pictures we shall never forget, of the humble birth at Bethlehem of the Saviour of the world, and the shining glory which brought shepherds to worship the Lamb of God.

HYMN 70 **It came upon the midnight clear**

HYMN 79 **O little town of Bethlehem**

HYMN 66 **Hark! the herald angels sing**

CHRISTMAS MORNING

HYMN 78 **O come, all ye faithful**
Omit verses 4 & 5

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10
In typical Hebrew style, the prophet sings of a glorious future as if it had already happened. For us, God has indeed visited and redeemed his people, glory to Israel and light for the Gentiles.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4
In this anonymous essay, the writer contrasts the partial revelation given in times past with the outpouring of God's word in his glorious Son.

HYMN 68 **In the bleak midwinter**

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14
In so few but wonderful words, John captures the mystery of God disclosing himself; his divine Word is made flesh. Christ was from the beginning, is now, and all who believe this are children of God.

HYMN 83 **See, amid the winter's snow**

HYMN 72 **Joy to the world, the Lord is come**

HYMN 61 **Christians awake! salute the happy morn**



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

Thank you for worshipping with us here at St. Michael's as we greet the Holy Child of Bethlehem in the wonderful feast of Christmas. Whether you are a long-term resident, a regular member of the congregation or a visitor 'passing through' Alnwick you are welcome to our celebrations.

Amidst the busy-ness of this day you have chosen to include the Christ in Christmas. In acknowledging the amazing truth that the great God of heaven is come down to earth - and making room for him in your hearts and minds - you can be assured that his love will be with you always.

Whatever your situation, whether you come with rejoicing or with sadness and sorrow in your heart, may the wonder, truth and beauty of Christmas fill you, and all those whom you love, with deep peace and contentment.

*Love came down at Christmas.
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas.
star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL
ALNWICK**



CHRISTMAS 2015