

Season of Christmas

28th December 2025

Led by Fiona Bennett & Carol Joyner



Welcome & Gathering

Call to worship:

One: The Lord of Heaven

ALL: is wrapped in cloth.

One: The Wisdom of ages

ALL: needs our care.

One: The Hope of the world

ALL: depends on our love.

God is with us! Emmanuel.

Hymn: O Little town of Bethlehem CH4 304

O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see you lie!

Above your deep and dreamless sleep

the silent stars go by;

yet in your streets is shining

the everlasting Light;

the hopes and fears of all the years

are met in you tonight.

How silently, how silently,

the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts

the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming;

but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him, still

the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin, and enter in;

be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,

our Lord Emmanuel.

Prayer

One: By day and by night,
ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)
One: In our strength & fragility,
ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)
One: In our hope & fear,
ALL: Emmanuel is with us (using BSL)

We unite our prayers together in the Jesus prayer or Lord's prayer...

Source of Life,
Father and Mother of all,
Creation honours you!
May your Realm of
Justice and Love
sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory
of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

The Christmas Candle Ring

Time for All Ages: Story of Babushka

Hymn: Unto us a boy is born CH4 331

1 Unto us a boy is born!
The King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of ev'ry nation.

2 Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he the world surpasses.

3 Herod then with fear was filled:

"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethl'hem in his fury.

4 Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

5 Alpha and Omega he!
Now let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Shall rend the air asunder.

*CH4 331 15th C Latin text translated
by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936
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Readings: Matthew 2:13-23

13Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

19When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." 21Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Reflection by Carol Joyner

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

Notices

Hymn: Before the world began CH4 317

Before the world began one Word was there;
grounded in God he was, rooted in care;
by him all things were made;
in him was love displayed;
through him God spoke and said, 'I am for you.'

Life found in him its source; death found its end;
light found in him its course, darkness its friend,
for neither death nor doubt
nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout: 'I am for you.'

The Word was in the world which from him came;
unrecognized he was, unknown by name;
one with all humankind,
with the unloved aligned,
convincing sight and mind: 'I am for you.'

All who received the Word by God were blessed;
sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of Grace
proclaim in time and space
and with a human face, 'I am for you.'

CH4 317 John L Bell
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Blessing

Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 28 th Dec	11am	AUC & Online	Fiona is leading and Carol is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 28 th Dec	12 noon	Online	
Contextual Bible Study is on a break over Christmas and will return on Wednesday 14 th January				
Sunday Worship	Sun 4 th Jan	11am	AUC & Online	Fiona is leading and Laurence is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 4 th Jan	12 noon	Online	

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196