

The birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-22

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’


¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.’

22nd December 2013

Advent 4



King of kings yet born of Mary, you came to dwell among us in great humility, you reveal the great love of God towards us and that we are called to be his own people. Come now among us to give us your peace, that we may live to your praise and glory, Christ our Saviour, who is alive and lives and reigns with the Father and the Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

You are welcome to our Christmas services 

Christingle	Monday Dec 23rd, 5.30pm
Watchnight service	Tuesday Dec 24th, 11.15pm
Family service	Wednesday Dec 25th, 10.30am
Holy Communion	Wednesday 25th, 11.15am

Elly Jamieson, wife of Bishop Hamish has died in Australia on Dec 3rd.

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9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the Sea, along the Jordan -

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and for ever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

The birth of Jesus foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

³⁴ 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.'

³⁸ 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her.