**‘White Christmas’**

*A reflective service*

*for anyone experiencing the pain and loss of bereavement.*

A picture containing mountain, outdoor, sunset, nature

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**10th December 2023**

**3.00pm**

**The Hub - Gold Hill Baptist Church**

Participants’ copy

**Order of Service**

**Welcome, Explanation and Opening Prayer**

**Rev David Warren**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels

*O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God, Begotten, not created

*O come, let us adore Him…………….*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, All glory in the highest

*O come, let us adore Him*………….

**Poem**

**Christmas Comfort**

**(Read by Paul Morris)**

Christmas shopping has begun

But now I shop for three,

Another sad reminder of

The way things used to be.

Your brothers and your sister

Still adorn my Christmas list

But your name is no longer there

And you are sorely missed.

It’s hard to find my Christmas joy

Without you here to share it

Sometimes my heart feels such a loss

It seems I cannot bear it.

But then God’s Spirit speaks to me

In words that bring relief

Reminding me that Christmas means

Much more in times of grief.

For Christ was born to give that Gift

No other gift exceeds

And knowing you are on *His* list

Is all this person needs.

**Scripture Reading**

**(Read by Jan Howell)**

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*

*In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you.*

*I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

*You know the way to the place where I am going."*

*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.*

*No-one comes to the Father except through me.*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*

*I do not give to you as the world gives.*

*Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace.*

*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*

John 14v1-6; John 16:33

**Jan to say – ‘please stand if you are able as we sing our next carol’**

**See, amid the winter snow**,  
born for us on earth below;  
see, the gentle Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years:

*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
sing through all Jerusalem:  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*  
 Low within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
reigns above the cherubim:  
*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn . . .*  
 Say, you humble shepherds, say  
what's your joyful news today;  
tell us why you've left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep:  
*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn . . .*  
'As we watched at dead of night,  
all around us shone a light;  
angels singing peace on earth  
told us of a Saviour's birth.'  
*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn . . .* Holy Saviour, born on earth,  
teach us by your lowly birth;  
grant that we may ever be  
taught by such humility.  
*Hail, O ever-blessèd morn . . .*

**Prayer – Marion Lugard**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us

in all our troubles.

Deal graciously we pray with those who mourn that casting all

their care on you they may know the consolation of your love.

We pray for those who mourn today and for those whose need of

You is great. May they embrace Your promise of eternal life and

in their grief receive Your gifts of peace, hope, joy and faith.

To Your loving care we commend those who mourn. Sustain

them in the days to come with treasured memories of the past

and radiant hopes for the future.

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death.

Look in Your mercy on all who mourn. Give them patient faith in

times of darkness. Strengthen them with the knowledge of Your

love. You are tender towards Your people and Your mercy is over

all Your works.

Heavenly Father, Who in Your Son Jesus Christ, has given us a

true faith and a sure hope. Help us we pray to live as those

who believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness

of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting, and strengthen

this faith and hope in us all the days of our life.

Come to Me all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I

will give you rest. Become my servants and learn from me. I am

gentle and humble in heart. You will find rest for your souls.

Serving Me is easy, and My load is light.

So, we come with open hands and wounded hearts asking You to

carry us now when we are too weak to see our way through this

grief. We come to You the only One who can heal us, lift our

head and walk us through this dark season into

Your light and life. Comfort us as only You can.

*Amen*

May God give You his comfort and peace, his light and love, in

this world and the next and the blessing of God almighty Father,

Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

**(David to introduce)**

**Bringing the names of those we have lost and writing them on Christmas tags for the decoration of the tree**

**leading to a**

**Time of Quiet and Stillness**

**(Eunice Warren – instrumental music)**

**David – to draw to a close and invite people to stand for Carol**

**Oh Little town of Bethlehem**   
how still we see thee lie!   
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep   
the silent stars go by;   
yet in thy dark streets shineth   
the everlasting light.   
The hopes and fears of all the years   
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,   
and, gathered all above   
while mortals sleep, the angels keep   
their watch of wond’ring love.   
O morning stars, together   
proclaim the holy birth,   
and praises sing to God the King   
and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently,   
the wondrous gift is giv’n!   
So God imparts to human hearts   
the blessings of his heav’n.   
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 Immanuel!

**Message**

**(Maria Bond)**

**Maria – introduce Malcolm**

**Shepherd of My Soul**

**Malcolm Tyrrell** (Performed solo)

You lead me into quiet meadows,  
Heavy burdens you release,  
And rising over troubled waters  
Your melody of peace.  
  
You let me rest awhile in stillness,  
Catch my breath and be restored;  
To walk the path you’ve chosen for me  
In step with You my Shepherd-Lord.  
   
 *chorus*  
 Shepherd of my soul, You are all I need,  
 I put my trust in You and follow where You lead.  
 I worship You alone, no place I’d rather be  
 Until You call me home into eternity.  
  
You lead me through the darkest valley,  
Pain and grief on every side;  
I know You walk each step beside me,  
My Comforter and Guide.  
  
 *chorus…….* Shepherd of my soul....  
  
 I stand in awe, just can’t believe  
 How You could love someone like me!  
 Your goodness grows and, like a flood,  
 Pours over me, amazing love.  
  
When storm clouds rage and overwhelm me,  
When I fall and lose my way,  
You lift me up on Your shoulder  
Until You blow the storm away.

*chorus*  
 Shepherd of my soul.... You are all I need.

## **David to share about Bereavement course**

**Oh Holy Night!** the stars are brightly shining;   
It is the night of the dear Savior’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,   
For yonder 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, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,   
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.   
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,   
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.   
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,   
In all our trials born to be our Friend.   
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.   
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!   
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;   
His law is love and His gospel is peace.   
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,   
And in His name all oppression shall cease.   
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;   
Let all within us praise His holy name.   
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!   
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!   
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

**Prayer of Blessing** – **David (mention tea in Foyer)**

**Leave to music** - **Eunice**

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