



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
CHRISTMAS NIGHT AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

COLLECT- Christmas Night (evening of 24th December)

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT- Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A reading from the book of Isaiah, chapter 52, verses 7-10.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation (for Communion services only)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, chapter 1, verses 1-14.

Glory to you, O Lord

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Hannah...

'How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,'

Have you ever seen the Lord of the Rings films? There is a brilliant moment when the beacons are lit- making a chain of lights across the skyline. Have a look at it here- <https://youtu.be/i6LGJ7evrAg?feature=shared> . Beacons bring news- just like the messenger in the book of Isaiah, who is flying over the mountain tops with the wonderful announcement of peace.

The hills can feel very foreboding places- often barren, rocky, windy and brutal. And yet in and through these places of endurance and hardship, the good news sparkles.

This Christmas, whatever your circumstances, may you look up and see the bright lights of hope, the joyful running of feet over the unforgiving paths, and may you know the love of the Christ Child- who is the light of the world- light that no darkness can overcome.