

# Café Church

The fresh way to  
Worship in Pershore



Monthly on the Second Sunday  
in the St Andrew's Centre

WORSHIP • MUSIC • REFRESHMENTS



## Welcome to Café Church Pershore

Sunday 11 December 2022

It's great to have you with us. Grab a coffee/tea/ juice and help yourself to some refreshments.

Feel free to let the kids play with the toys and do colouring. Don't worry about noise. God loves to hear the joy of his people, especially his young ones.

Our time is for around 45 minutes, and we hope you have a fab time.

Here is the order of service. You are invited to join in with the **bits in bold**.



## Order of Service

### Gathering

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us

**ALL: And we beheld his glory.**

### Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,**

**to whom all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,**

**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;**

**through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### Song – Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Cont.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

## We say sorry to God for the stuff we get wrong

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the  
darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:  
**forgive and heal us.**

### The leader shares the assurance of God's forgiveness

For forgiving us, Lord Jesus  
**Thank you**  
For giving us a fresh start, Lord Jesus  
**Thank you**  
For helping us next time things are hard, Lord Jesus  
**Thank you**

### The Collect- The Church's special prayer of the day.

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## Let's listen now to God's Word – The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2: 1- 20

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn. There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Now sit back and listen to today's short talk

## Song - Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Author Unknown  
*Little Children's book*, Philadelphia, 1885

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist.

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## We have a short time of prayer together

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**



## Final Prayer

God our Father,  
your Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds,  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## Song - See him Lying on a Bed of Straw (Calypso Carol)

See him lying on a bed of straw,  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore —  
the Prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of glory when he came!*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the Saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
Bring God's glory to the heart of man!  
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can  
be salvation to the soul.

Michael Perry, 1942-1996

### Blessing

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Café Church next date:  
08 January 2023**

*Material taken from New Patterns for Worship ©The Archbishop's Council, 2002.*

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