

Feast of the Holy Family **Sunday 29 December 2014**

O 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.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

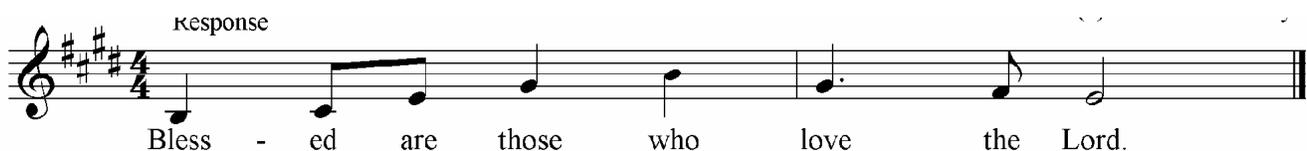
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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.

Let us pray

Loving Father,
we have received so much from you through our families'
Grant that we may be generous and loving at all times
to our parents, and sisters and brothers,
And all who are close to us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm 127



Blessed are those who love the Lord.

Blest are those who walk God's pathways.
Blest as you work, blest as you eat.
Blessed are those who love the Lord.
Blessed are those who love the Lord.

Your wife will be a fruitful vine,
your children like young seedlings,
your home be blest, your table shared,
blessed are those who love the lord.
Blessed are those who love the Lord.

May the Lord bless you all your days,
you and your children's children.
Peace in your home, peace in your heart.
Blessed are those who love the Lord.
Blessed are those who love the Lord.



Short reading

Deuteronomy 5:16

Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may have long life and may prosper in the land that the Lord your God gives to you.

Canticle Benedictus 5

For all our sins will freely be forgiven,
the heart of God pours loving- kindness forth,
God comes to us like dawn comes to the sky
bringing true light, where darkness once prevailed.
So all who live in fear of death's dark shadow,
God will now guide into the way of peace.

Prayers and Intercessions

The Son of the living God let himself become the son of a human family.
We pray: – *Lord, you are our example and our saviour.*

Jesus, eternal Word of the Father,
you were content to grow in your humanity
with the guidance of Mary and Joseph.
– *Lord, you are our example and our saviour.*

You are our teacher; your mother treasured your actions and words in her
heart:
may we listen to your word and treasure it.
– *Lord, you are our example and our saviour.*

You, who shaped the world from nothingness,
were known as the son of a shaper of wood:
whatever we make or do, may we do it with proper care.
– *Lord, you are our example and our saviour.*

Jesus, in the heart of your family you grew up in favour with God and with
men:
May we, and all the members of our families,
Live together in happiness and peace.
– *Lord, you are our example and our saviour.*
–

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Canticle from the Letter to the Ephesians (3:14ss)

I bow my knees before the Lord our God.
Each fam'ly comes from God:
The Spirit strengthen yours with inner power.
May Christ dwell in your hearts!
May you be filled now, filled with the fullness of God.
May you be filled now, filled with the fullness of God.

Let us pray

God our Father,
by following Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their family life,
may we enjoy happiness and fulfilment,

and when our family lives are affected by hardships,
let these lead us to a fuller peace..
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm;
and may he lead us to eternal life. **AMEN**

The Prayer of Tobit and Sara

God ever blest,
our fathers and mothers taught us to praise you,
source of true love.
All of the heavens,
all of creation sing of your blessings age upon age.

Led by Joe Docherty, with music by the St Mungo Singers, and Psalmist
Dorothy Gunnee and cantor Catriona Glen.

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