



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

Christmas 2022

Opening Prayer (said together)

God of delight, let us see the world today through your joyful eyes.

May we join with you in delighting in all that you have created.

Thank you for all that you have given us; Not the stuff, but the people:

Their love, their dreams, their warmth.

Thank-you that you are with us in this moment, and in every other moment of our lives.



Amen

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is co
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.



2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

MY CHRISTMAS TO DO LIST

Count my blessings

Let go of what I can't control

Practice kindness Listen to my heart

Just breathe and have a Merry Christmas.



Peel Valley Congregation is in recess from the 26 December 2022 resuming for 2023 at Hallsville with our traditional

Gospel Music Breakfast

15 January 2023 All Welcome.



Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

The Birth of Jesus

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.

² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.

⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.

⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.



"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more?" ~ The Grinch from, How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Dr Suess

Lectionary Readings for today:

Nativity 1 Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Nativity 2 Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Nativity 3 Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23 Psalm 148

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



O little town of Bethlehem

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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!



Luke 2:8–20 (NLT)

The Shepherds and Angels

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.



⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,

¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

¹¹ The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for all people who are faced with the impact of war at Christmas time.
- We give thanks that Alan and Jan are improving after suffering Covid19.
- We give thanks for the joy of celebrating Christmas with family members and special friends.... whether by phone or in person.
- Our hearts go out to the people facing famine in Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Somalia.



★
Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell

Ross Davidson

Sue Budden

Daryl Lush



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



While shepherds watched

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
- 2 "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
- 3 "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
- 4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."
- 5 Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease."



Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT)

Visitors from the East



- 2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,
2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."
- 3 King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.
- 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"
- 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:
6 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'
- 7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.
- 8 Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"
- 9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!
- 11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.



Meg's Musings

At Christmastime many people focus on their desire for gifts which involve the latest gadgets and technology. That's understandable. The new and exciting are always enticing.

Some new technology plays a crucial part in medical breakthroughs, saving lives, and improving the health of millions of people.

Other technology is being utilised so that energy can be generated in cleaner, cheaper, and more sustainable ways.

How do we ensure that new technology gets used so that everyone benefits?

Could the problem of world hunger be solved if technology was used to benefit the poorest people on earth?

If we truly seek the "peace on earth" which the angels sang about, we need to find answers to those difficult questions.

Christmas blessings from Meg

While shepherds watched their phones by night,
All seated at the bar,
An angel texted them to say,
Look up and see the star!~Leunig

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." ~ Robert Breault



It came Upon the Midnight Clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.
- 4 For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When Christ shall come and all shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And saints shall meet Him in the air,
And with the angels sing.

Benediction

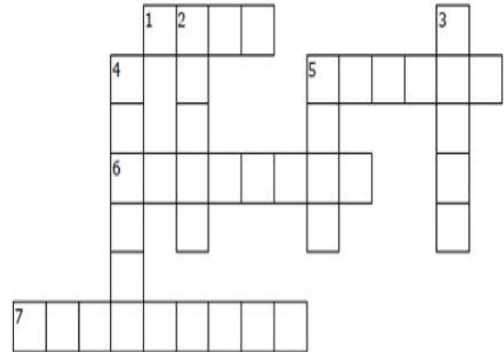
Let Christ be born in us!
Let hope be born, let love be born.
Let newness of heart be born in us.
Let gentleness be born; let truth be born.
Let generosity be born; let compassion be born.
Let closer communion with God be born in us.
Let prayer be born; let action be born.
Let the faith to take up our cross and follow
Christ be born in us.
May it lead us today, and always. **Amen**

"Today is the first day of the rest of your
life" ~ Charles Dederich

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

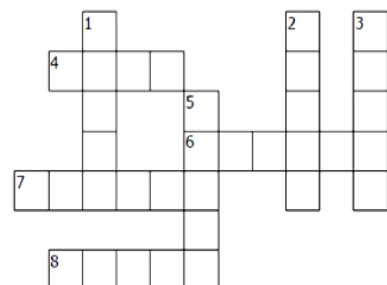
DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

Escape from Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 2:13-23



ACROSS

4. To cause someone to die
6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
7. A female parent
8. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown

DOWN

1. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark
2. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
3. A heavenly servant of God
5. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus