



Guided by a cloud 40 (Exodus 13:21-22)



This week would have been our carol service so if you would like to 'do it yourself' here is what we usually do:-

[O come all Ye Faithful](#)

[Angels from the Realms of glory](#)

Reading 1 – The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-45)

[Once in royal David's city](#)

Talk (Preparing for Christmas)

[Silent Night](#)

[Like a candle flame](#)

Reading 2 – Birth of Jesus, Shepherds and Angels (Luke 2:1-20)

[Oh Little Town of Bethlehem,](#)

Reading 3 – Visit of the Magi. (Matt 2:1-12)

[God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen](#)

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)

A Christmas Prayer – Robert Louis Stevenson

What preparations have you made this Christmas? You may have cleaned your house from top to bottom. You may have delved into the loft to locate the decorations only to find the lights don't work again! Parcels may have been sent and the shopping list completed. Amongst all of this preparation we also need to find time to prepare ourselves.

Cleaning our hearts - Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.* If we have pure hearts then we will be happy because we will see God. Often easier said than done as life gets in the way and we get frustrated or angry by situations not working out as planned or by other people not doing

what we expect and causing difficulties. We can't make our hearts pure but God can, all we have to do is ask (probably over and over again). Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a pure heart and renew a right spirit within me.* God granted David's request and gave him a clean heart. He can do the same for us.

Rearranging of priorities - Matthew 6:33 *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.* God wants us to make more room for His Son in our hearts. When God is the centre of our lives other things come together. We don't want to be so busy celebrating Christmas that we forget Jesus, the reason for the season.

Decorating of the heart - What does God do to decorate our heart? Ezekiel 36:26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* God's desire is to take our lives and make it even more beautiful. God wants to add value to our lives, He wants to be an influence but he needs permission from us for his spirit to work. He wants to decorate us with His blessings and give us something new.

Receiving and giving of gifts - John 1:12 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* Receive means to welcome or to accept. John says we are to welcome Christ into all aspects of our lives. God has given us an incredible gift that we can choose to receive and when we do, we are given permission to join God's family, we become a part of eternity.

This week's candle is love which is the reason God sent Jesus to the Earth (John 3:16) and we can celebrate how much he loves every one of us.



A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7

