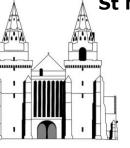
St Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen



6.00pm Evening Worship Blue Christmas

Sunday 15th December 2024

Conducted by Rev Sarah Brown

Welcome

A blessing for travelling in the dark

Hymn 303 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 you, from heaven'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 heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing. 3 But with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angels' hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and warring humankind hears not the love-song which they bring; oh, hush the noise and still the strife to hear the angels sing.

4 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

5 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when, with the ever-rolling years Still dawns the Age of Gold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Prayer

Reading Luke 2:1-7

Blessed are you who bears the light

Reflection

Musical Reflection — a time to listen to music, light a candle, reflect on what has been, hope for what is to come.

Prayer

Hymn How can we sing a joyful song? (tune 527)

How can we sing a joyful song? O God, our sorrows hem us in. When pain and grief seem all too strong, How can we sing a joyful hymn?

The world around finds songs to sing Of laughter, mirth and happiness, But these sound false and even sting When what we feel is deep distress.

And yet, O God, we dare to sing For in our grief, we're not alone. You love this world and entered in By sending us your only Son.

You sent us hope — Emmanuel! O God-with-us, you bore our pain. And so we sing, for all is well! In Christ, we will be whole again.

Text: Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Blessing: How the light comes

Please feel free to stay a while, take what time you need.

If you have enjoyed the readings tonight, you will find them in Circle of Grace and The Cure for Sorrow, both by Jan Richardson.