



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.

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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.