

This Watchnight will be shared among us online at 11.30 pm on New Year's Eve, for those people who wish to share it at that time.

However, it will be available on the Church's website and Facebook pages from earlier in the day, so that those who cannot stay up until that time could choose to share it earlier in the evening, or perhaps the next day as a start to the new year.

Christ Church Stocksbridge

"Together at Home"

with Crane Moor and Green Moor

Thursday 31st December 2020

Watchnight

or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The turning of the year

Hymn 639 by Mary Peters

Through the love of God our Saviour,
All will be well;
Free and changeless is His favour,
All, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us,
Perfect is the grace that sealed us,
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us,
All must be well.

Call to worship

Hymn : 746 by John Bell

For all the saints who showed your love
in how they lived and where they moved,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
who sang your songs and share your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,
and saw your kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours

The old year that is past

Bible Reading : Matthew 6.19-34

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other,

Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well.
Ours is such a full salvation,
All, all is well.
Happy still in God confiding;
Fruitful if in Christ abiding;
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding:
All must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well.
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All, all is well.
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying;
Or in living or in dying;
All must be well

The new year that is ahead

Prayers

We see in the New Year. We watch together.

**Loving Lord, we watch for your coming
into the life of the world you have made.
We watch for a new heaven and a new earth.
Come, Lord, come,
as freedom to the oppressed;
justice to the exploited;
food to those who hunger.
We are ready and waiting.
Come, loving Lord, and renew us.**

**Saving Lord, we watch for your coming into the lives
of humankind.
We watch for the wiping away of tears.
Come, Lord, come, as healing to the sick;
forgiveness to the sinful;
comfort to those who mourn.
We are ready and waiting.
Come, loving Lord: and renew us.**

**Calling Lord, we watch for your coming into
our lives.
We watch for the renewal of your people.
Come, Lord, come,
as love to bind us together;
hope to give us vision and courage;
enthusiasm to fire our witness to you.
We are ready and waiting.
Come, loving Lord: and renew us.**

**On the threshold of this New Year,
knock on the door of our lives, loving Lord,
for we are ready to open to you,**

**to walk with you the way of self-giving love
all the days that are to come. Amen.**

**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. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Hymn : : 478 by Fred Kaan

Thank you, O God, for the time that is now,
for all the newness your minutes allow,
make us alert with your presence of mind
to fears and longings that move humankind.

Thank you, O God, for the time that is past,
for all the values and thoughts that will last.
May we all stagnant tradition ignore,
leaving behind things that matter no more.

Thank you for hopes of the day that will come,
for all the change that will happen in time;
God for the future our spirits prepare
hallow our doubts and redeem us from fear.

Make us afraid of the thoughts that delay,
faithful in all the affairs of today;
keep us, Creator, from playing it safe,
thank you that now is the time of our life!

The Grace

**May the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all
and remain with us always. Amen**

