



The
United
Reformed
Church

29 December 2019

The 5 Joys of Christmas

Call to worship

HYMN 320

Joy to the world

Welcome and Notices

Prayer of approach

READING

Luke 1: 26-33

see over page

The Joy of Gabriel

HYMN 286

Tell out my soul

READING

Luke 2: 4-7

The Joy of Mary

HYMN 322

Good Christians, All Rejoice

READING

Luke 2: 15-20

The Joy of the Shepherds

OFFERTORY HYMN 296

While humble Shepherds watched their flocks

READING

Matthew 2: 7-12

The Joy of the Wise Men

HYMN 326

As with gladness

READING

Matthew 2: 19-23

The Joy of the Joseph

HYMN – over page

Joseph be our guide [tune: Regent Square]

Prayers of thanks and intercessions

HYMN 301

Hark the herald angels sing

The Blessing

**May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place
May the Love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace**



**Joseph, be our guide and pattern,
Faithful to your sacred trust,
Strong protector of the Virgin
And the infant, Jesus Christ,
Joseph, firm and faithful,
guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.**

**Faithful to the guiding vision,
List'ning to the angel's word;
Shielding Mary from all slander,
Guarding Christ, both Son and Lord,
Joseph, true and trusting,
guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.**

**Leading them through many dangers
To the home in Nazareth,
Humbly for their needs providing
In your wise and steadfast faith,
Joseph, brave, obedient, guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.**

Muriel Newton-White

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 2:4-7

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Matthew 2:7-12

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2:19-23

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."