

Family Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2021, 6:30 pm

It's a Throwback Christmas Eve!

Welcome and Candle lighting.

L: This evening is Christmas eve. The time we have waited for and prepared for is finally here!

P: This evening and tomorrow we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

L: As we waited for this day we lit 4 candles.

P: The first candle we lit was the candle of hope.

L: The second candle we lit was the candle of love.

P: The third candle we lit was the candle of joy.

L: The fourth candle we lit was the candle of love.

P: This evening and tomorrow, we also light the centre white candle. This candle represents Jesus. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended.

Light the Christ candle.

L: The saviour – yes the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the City of David!

Time for catching up! One question to consider: What is your favourite family Christmas tradition?

2:1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

Christmas song: Jingle Bells

Luke 2:15-20

2:15 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."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Time to chat: what is the answer to our original question – What is your favourite family Christmas tradition?

The Nativity – A Throwback Video!

Christmas prayer.

I wonder Lord what the world would feel like
Before you came to earth.
Before the dawn of love reborn,
Before the promise of the baby of light!
I wonder did the shepherds feel
The absence of your grace?
Before forgiveness came in a manger,
Before your mercy was laid in the hay
I wonder how desperate were the hearts
Of those Kings who searched for truth?
Before all wisdom was born that night,
Before the dawning of a Saviour bright.
I wonder just how Joseph felt,
What a heavy burden he bore.
Before the promises of a beautiful boy,
Before he held the miracle child.
I wonder whether Mary was
The first to feel new things,
Before the birth of Jesus,
Before she carried the Kingdom within.
I wonder this on Christmas eve
Before the dawn of day.
Before the celebrations
Before our Lord's birthday.

The Staff, Session and Deacons of St. Andrew's Hespeler wish you a Merry Christmas!