

All Age Family Nativity @ St Andrews 2012.

Announcements: Pastor David

Welcome: Today we are going to build a crib scene with the help of Carols, readings and songs.

Light Advent Candle 3: Monk-Peak Family (light three candles)

Prayer: led by Pastor David

As you arrived you will have received a Star (has every one got one?) This is to remind us that the birth of Jesus was marked by many special events not least the presence in the heavens of a special star.

Worship: Come and join the celebration (SF688)
From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable (SF1239)
When Jesus came into the world.

First we are going to meet a two special people.
Can you look around and find a blue bag?
Who is this? Mary
An Angel visited Mary to tell her that she was going to be the Mother to the Son of God.

Mary's thoughts: It was so hard – telling them about the baby and the angel and everything. I knew they wouldn't believe me to start with. Everybody got in such a state; the Rabbi was particularly rude. But then Rabbis often are! But

inside I felt quite calm. Joseph was calm too, once he heard from the angel. I'm glad God reassured him. It's all very strange... Yet underneath it seems so, well. Right. So we are carrying on. It's really quite silly. But I just can't stop singing... various bits of the Psalms, put together. We'll just have to see what God will do next. Perhaps Elizabeth will have some advice. We'll see.

Mary's Song: Fluffy (Face of Jesus, face of God)

Worship: Tell out my soul (SF520) (Mary's words were turned into a song: the Magnificat)

Now we need to find the Brown Bag.
Who is this? Joseph
We will hear more from him later!

Let's hear about both Mary & Joseph in the Bible:
Reading: Matt 1v 18-23 read by Colin Cannon

The country where Mary and Joseph live was under the rule of the Roman Empire and at that time a special decree was announced.

Reading: Luke 2v1-7 read by Teresa Deakin

So Mary and Joseph had to go on a long journey!

Ask someone to collect both figures and bring them to the front (You can make them take a long walk around the church)

Worship: O Little Town of Bethlehem (SF420)

When they got to Bethlehem it was very busy and they had to look for somewhere to stay.

All the hotels and houses were full but a kind innkeeper said that they could stay in his stable; this was a good thing, as Mary needed somewhere to rest as she was going to have a baby.

Let's hear from Joseph:

Joseph Monologue (Steve Rayner)

That night Mary's baby was born
Ask for the white bag
Who is in the Bag? - Baby Jesus
Put baby Jesus in the manger

Jesus is God's son, Jesus is God's gift to us and so God did something quite amazing to let everyone know about Jesus being born! He used the stars and His angels as signs to different people to tell them about the birth of the Messiah.

Angels – Bright Sparks have made Angels: if you have one under your seat then please bring it forward and add to our scene as we sing our next carol (Bluetack)

Worship: It was on a starry night (SF1365)
The sky is filled with the glory of God (SF1048)

Reading: Luke Ch2 v8-14 read by Mark Nicholas

Can we find the Green Bag?
Who is in here? Shepherds

Now when the shepherds heard the news from the angels about the birth of the baby Jesus, they went to Bethlehem to see for themselves.

So we can put the shepherds into our Nativity scene

Worship: While Shepherds Watched (SF602)

God used a special star to direct other people as to where to find the new-born king.

Can we find the Gold Bag?
Who is in here? The Wisemen

The wise men followed the star until they found God's son.

Put the wisemen into the scene with their gifts

The wisemen bought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the new king.

Talk about the Gifts (Pastor David)

Gold for King of Kings (more than a medal, He is Lord and Heaven & Earth)

Incense for the Priest of all Priests (God came to Earth creating an open heaven)

Myrrh for the Death of all Death (From the Cradle to the Cross giving us Life Eternal)

Our Nativity scene is getting pretty busy now.

This is the picture of the Stable that over the years we have come to know and love, but really it would not have been like this!

It may have been dirty and maybe noisy in the stable with all the animals and all those visitors? So our Nativity scene is a bit like our lives, as we get very busy especially at this time of year. In all our busy-ness let us stop and think about other people. We are going to do this as we pray together.

Prayerfully Sing: Light of the World (SF1419)
Emmanuel (SF83)

Prayers for World

Offering Prayer said by all

Father God, (repeat)

Thank you for giving us Jesus, (repeat)

***We give ourselves and all we have to you
(repeat)***

***Help us to keep Jesus at the centre of
Christmas, (repeat)***

And at the centre of our lives. (repeat)

Amen.

Worship: O come all ye faithful (SF408 & 409)

Let's turn again to our Nativity Scene, as we look at the Nativity Scene Jesus is at the centre.

This reminds us that Jesus is the centre of Christmas and He wants to be at the centre of our lives!

Greeting:

“Let Jesus be the centre of your Christmas”

Star Biscuits as we have refreshments.