

Carol:

The collection is taken during the carol.

Blessing

Minister: May God the Father, who has loved his eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon us, his children:

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

May Jesus, who by his incarnation brought together both earth and heaven, fill us with joy and peace:

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary carried the Son of God in her womb, give us grace to carry to others the good news of her child, our Saviour Jesus, the Christ:

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and all those you love, this Christmas-time, and always: **Amen**

Dismissal

Minister: Let us go in peace, bearing the light of the gospel of Christ:
**In the name of the Lord,
Amen.**

SEVEN TOWERS BENEFICE



CAROL SERVICE

Welcome and Introduction

The presiding minister introduces the service and welcomes the congregation.

Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Carol:

1st Reading: A Promise to Israel *Isaiah 9 v 2-7*

The Advent candles help us to prepare for two things; the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and His promise that He will come again.

The first candle represents the HOPE we have that in Jesus, God is establishing his kingdom on earth.

The second represents the knowledge that we are known and LOVED by God.

The third represents the knowledge that fullness of JOY comes from God alone.

Today we light the fourth candle. This candle symbolises PEACE.

Light the 4th Advent candle.

2nd Reading: Micah foretells Christ's birth *Micah 5.2-4*

Those listening to Micah's words would have known a time of warfare, but little of peace. Micah introduces them to God's promise of a different future: one of peace, under the rule of a person who would lead like a shepherd. Jesus, The Good Shepherd, is an extraordinary gift from God to us; through him we receive life in all its fullness. We look forward to the day of Jesus' return, when his rule of peace will reach to the ends of the earth.

**All: Lord of all; your care for your world knows no bounds.
Lord of all; your love brings about fullness of life.
Lord of all; your peace surpasses all understanding.
Come Lord,
make your care, love and peace known to all.
Shed the light of your peace into the darkest of places.
Amen.**

Carol:

3rd Reading: The Annunciation *Luke 1.26-38*

Carol:

4th Reading: The Birth of Jesus *Luke 2.1-7*

Carol:

5th Reading: The Visit of the Shepherds *Luke 2. 8-20*

Carol:

The nativity figures are brought to the crib.

Minister: Lord Jesus, we pray that this crib may remind us of the love you have for us.

All: **Bless our families and our friends with your love that never ends; As we celebrate your birth, Help us to live for you on this earth: Amen**

Carol:

Please remain standing for the final reading.

6th Reading: Jesus, the word of God *John 1.1-14*

Talk

Prayers *led by a member of the congregation*

Minister: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.
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.**