

Friday 24th December @ 11.15pm

Readings

Isaiah 9 2-7

Titus 2 11-14

Luke 2 1-14

Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever:

Thought for the Week A Welcoming Heart

Whether we have a mansion or a manger to offer this Christmas, the key question is: have we a heart open in welcome for Christ? Or is its entrance blocked by the glitz and trappings of a modern, commercial celebration? Can Jesus find a room at our inn, or will he need to settle for alternative accommodation?

He comes, as he came to Bethlehem, with 'good news of great joy'. Are we able and willing to accept his joy, and to share it, as did the shepherds? Or, are we so used to the world's diet of pessimism and scandal, that we are wary of revelling in sheer, unadulterated joy?