



*Welcome to the
New Year Communion Service at
St. John's*

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CANTERBURY WAY, WIDEOPEN
NE13 6JQ

(Uniting churches of Ponteland and Wideopen)

5th January 2025

St John's Mission Statement:

AS PART OF GOD'S FAMILY, WE STRIVE TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE TO ALL FOR
THE GLORY OF GOD



Visitors and members of St John's:

Welcome to St John's United Reformed Church.
We hope that you will enjoy sharing worship with us.

10:45am Rededication and Quarterly Communion

Service led by Rev'd Ron Forster

Organist: Stewart Blake

Introductory Music: Carillons de Dunkerque - *Thomas Carter*
Prelude on 'This Endrys Night' - *George Oldroyd*
Prelude 'Lullay thou little tiny child' - *C Armstrong Gibb*

INTROIT

**Born in the night, Mary's child
A long way from your home:
Coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's child
Your face lights up our way
Light of the world, Mary's child
dawn on our darkened day.**

WELCOME

CHURCH NOTICES

WORDS of GATHERING

Hymn: R&S 183: "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning"

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THOUGHTS for the DAY

BLESSING of our GIFTS

Bible Readings: [Isaiah 60: 1-6](#)

[Matthew 2: 1-12](#)

Hymn: R&S 185: "Wise men seeking Jesus"

SERMON
Two Kings!

Hymn: R&S 265: "I cannot tell why he whom angels worship"

PRAYERS
The Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church 761

Rededication of our Church Membership
please join in with the words in bold italicized type

For the worship offered in prayer and praise,
for the preaching of the Word,
for the celebration of the Sacraments,
through this church.

All praise and thanks to God.

For the faith of all believers in Christ,
for the carrying of the gospel into all the world,
for the furtherance of the unity of all God's people
enabled by this church.

All praise and thanks to God.

For the support and nurture of God's people,
for the care of young and old,
for the calling of all to a life of service,
through this church.

All praise and thanks to God.

For the proclamation of God's truth,
for the care of the downtrodden,
for the giving of hope and courage
enabled by this church.

All praise and thanks to God.

For the opposing of all that is evil,
for the promoting of human worth,
for action for peace and justice,
through this church.

All praise and thanks to God.

For all who by word and deed
have brought this church into being,
for their living example to us,
for their faith and their hopes and dreams
built upon Jesus Christ the cornerstone.

All praise and thanks to God.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have led us as a shepherd,
guiding your flock towards the river of life
which flows through the holy city.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the future you have prepared for us
and the mission you share with us.
May we proclaim the gospel with courage and integrity,
point to the kingdom with excitement and commitment,
and let our self-seeking plans die
so that resurrection may burst forth
surprising us with joy.
Encourage us in the tasks which are before us,
give us your consolation in our failures,
and never let us become complacent.
Confirm us in your Holy Spirit
that, in our life together, we may find peace.
Grant us the strength to live in the world for your reign
and hope in the fulfilment of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We say together
***Covenant God, in your presence,
within the living community of the gathered saints,
in the company of the communion of those
who journeyed alongside you before us
we reaffirm our delight in sharing our lives with you.
You have been our God and we have been your people.
We renew our commitment to serve and follow you.
You are our God and we are your people.***

***We rededicate ourselves to care for the world
around us in your name.
You shall be our God and we shall be your people.
Preserve us from seeking acclaim and success
in the eyes of the world,
guard us from needing to be needed
before we see your love for us,
protect us from faith that asks no questions and risks nothing.
Where you lead may we follow, today and every day. Amen.***

REDEDICATION of ELDERS

Hymn: R&S 433: "O thou who camest from above"

THE COMMUNION

THE BREAD and WINE are SHARED

Hymn: "Longing for light, we wait in darkness "

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. .
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Bernadette Farrel

WE SAY TOGETHER

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
The Love of God
And the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all
Evermore**

CHORAL AMEN

Recessional Music

Von Himmel hoch, da kom ich her - *J S Bach*

Notices for the Week

Mon 6th Jan 7.30pm Desperate Housewives
Fri 10th Jan 7.15pm St John's Singers Rehearsal
Sun 12th Jan 10.45am Morning Worship
Led by Valerie Taylor



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