



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 40

Sunday 13th December 2020

Mary's Song

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

Often lost in the message of Christmas, with the tinsel and lights is the militant message at the heart of our faith. Mary's song expresses some of these thoughts. The story illustrates the underlying message. The angel did not appear to a king or ruler, his appearance was not to the rich or successful but to a common girl from a small town.

Mary's song is in line with prophecy of Daniel when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Here was the rock that would destroy all human empires, to cast down the mighty, to pull rulers from their throne.

The hymn writer puts it thus:

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

Mary then speaks of the hungry being filled and the rich sent empty away. Those with little in this world find fulfilment and hope, those rich in this world's goods find there is nothing here for them.

The picture by the artist Ben Wildflower, shows Mary trampling the serpent's head but in a militant pose that takes us away from the Christmas card Mary to a young woman whose militant voice is heard in her song.

What does it mean to us today when we think about the words of Mary's song, "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble?" Who are those brought down from their thrones? Who are the rich sent empty away? Are we on the side of the rulers and the rich or the humble and the poor?



The Christmas plans for Central Baptist Church in this strange year are:

20th 10:45 Virtual Nativity (Building open)

7pm Carols by Candlelight (Online only)

24th 11:30pm Carols at Midnight by Candlelight (Online only)

25th 10:45am Christmas Day Service (Live from the building. We plan to have people in the building show their presents, others will do so via Zoom)

27th 10:45 Service recorded by the evangelist J John

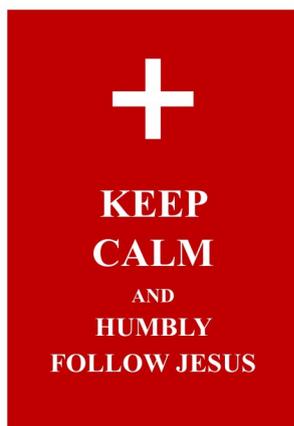
Members and friends wishing to attend any of the events in the building should contact Mel either by email admin@centralbaptist.org.uk or leave a message on the church answer machine to book a place (01582 422635)

Andrew

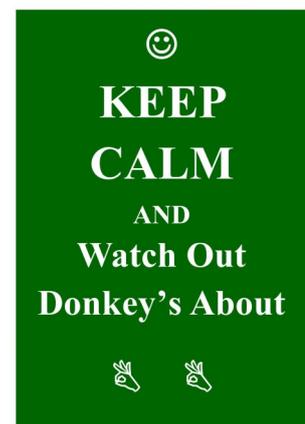
Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.



Recordings of Services at The Parish
Church of St Peter & St Paul at Kimpton
are available on the website:
www.kimptonchurch.co.uk



Christmas Services



Our Christmas plans are as follows:

Sunday 20th 10:45am - Virtual Nativity (Building open)

Sunday 20th 7pm - Carols by Candlelight (Online Only)

Thursday 24th 11:30pm - Carols at Midnight by Candlelight (Online only)

Friday 25th 10:45am - Christmas Day Service (Live from the building. We plan to have people in the building show their presents, others will do so via Zoom)

Sunday 27th 10:45am - Service recorded by the evangelist J John

Members and friends wishing to attend any of the events in the building should contact Mel either by email admin@centralbaptist.org.uk or leave a message on the church answer machine to book a place (01582 422635)



Recordings of Services at The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul at Kimpton are available on the churches website: www.kimptonchurch.co.uk

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul Kimpton

Sunday 13th December 4pm - Christingle at Kimpton church

Sunday 20th December 6.30pm - A service of carols readings and music at Kimpton church

Thursday 24th December 3pm – An Alternative Children's Crib service at Kimpton church

Thursday 24th December 11.30pm - Midnight Mass at Kimpton

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic any live services are subject to government safety restrictions and may be online only. Recordings of services will be available on the web.