

**Welcome**      Joel Chia (Covent Garden Talks)

- 1 **Once in Royal David's City,**  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars  
His children crowned,  
All in white shall be around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

**Reading**      Luke 1:26-38 (Ying Sun)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

1 **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature  
sing.

3 He rules the world with truth and  
grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ;  
While fields and floods and hills and  
plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

## **Reading**      Luke 1:39-45 (Hiten Rajguru)

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

1 **O little town of Bethlehem,**  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

3 O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, o abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1903)*

**Reading**      Luke 1:45-55 (Mo Williams)

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

- 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing,**  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"  
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
 God and sinners reconciled  
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
 Join the triumph of the skies;  
 With the angelic host proclaim,  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"
  
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored:  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
 Late in time behold him come,  
 Offspring of the favoured One.  
 Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;  
 Hail, the incarnate Deity:  
 Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"
  
- 3 Hail, the heaven born Prince of peace!  
 Hail, the Son of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 Risen with healing in his wings  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth.  
 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"  
*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## Join us in January 2021

We love to hear feedback! Please let us know your thoughts [here](#).

Covent Garden Lunchtime Talks meets every Thursday from 1pm. Join us on 7<sup>th</sup> January as we continue our series in the book of Genesis. Have a look at our [term card](#).

We run an exploratory discussion group on Mark's eyewitness account of Jesus on starting on 5<sup>th</sup> January Tuesdays 8am. [Click here](#) for how to join.

Contact [joel@coventgardentalks.co.uk](mailto:joel@coventgardentalks.co.uk) for more information

*Have a blessed Christmas!*