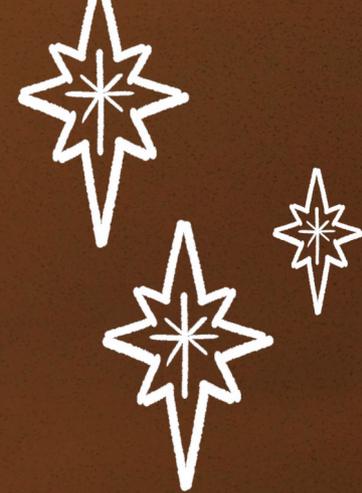


*Welcome to Calvary Church,
Brighton*

"Carols by Candlelight"



*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you:
he is Christ the Lord" - Luke 2:11*

23rd December 2018

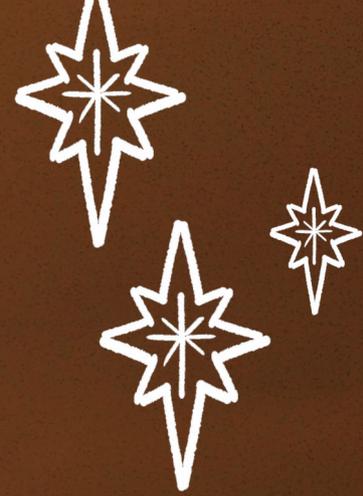
The service is led by Philip Wells - Minister

Visit www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net

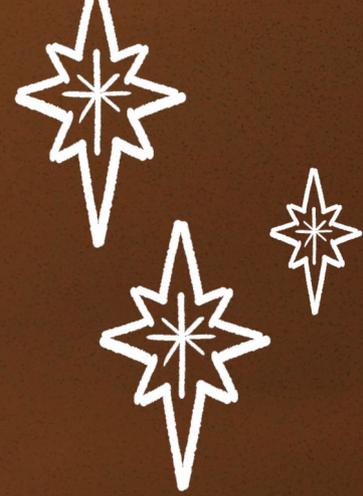
A Christmas message

- One of the excellent things about Christmas is music ...
 - 10 most popular Christmas songs ...
 - "All I want for Christmas is you ..."
 - Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
 - The Messiah
 - "Once in royal ..."
- Music ... singing ...
- Distinctively human (unlike rocks, cabbages, or even nightingales and whales) ... no words!
- Clue to the fact that this world is more than atoms, chance evolution, cost-effectiveness ... transcendence
- Even the angels in the Christmas story SAY things (sorry to disappoint!)



A Christmas message

- *Is there a reason to sing?*
- *Christian take on Christmas insists on singing*
 - *"sing through all Jerusalem ..."*
 - *"sing sing O earth ..."*
 - *"Hark the herald angels sing ..."*
 - *Prophet Isaiah says - when looking forward to the coming of the Christ...*
 - *"sing for joy, O heavens ... shout aloud O earth beneath ... burst into song O mountains" 44:23, 49:13*



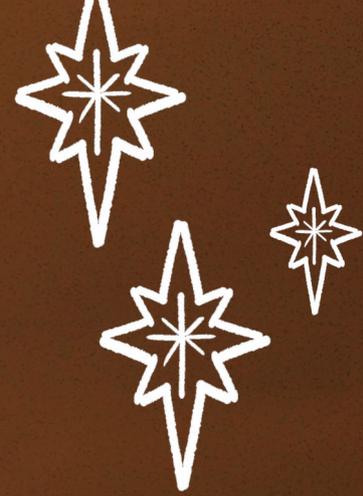
A Christmas message

- Let me give you 3 reasons to sing:
- 1. There's a prediction thing
 - Isaiah is a prophet, he speaks for a God who predicts the future and controls the future
 - "the virgin will conceive and bear a son ..."
 - + many other predictions of his plans
 - ==> uniquely this God is outside the system and controls the future!
 - ==> even Mrs May and President Trump are part of the system
 - ==> not in a plane without a pilot ...
 - ==> good news that someone is in control, and knows where he is headed!



A Christmas message

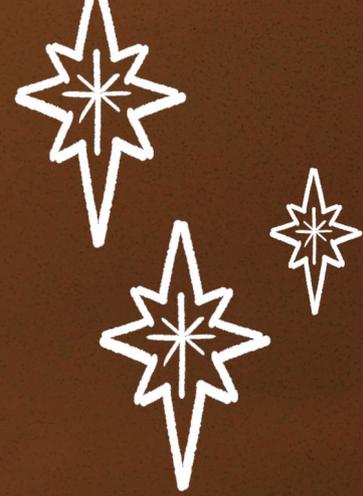
- 2. There's a baby thing
 - "... will bear a son ..."
 - Babies - cute - needy - 24hr care - dependent
 - Totally human
 - This God is pro-human
 - He doesn't hate us
 - Just want to condemn us
 - Only interested in making us feel b
 - he's come to earth for us
 - ... this will lead God-become-human to pay the price for human sin in a human way by dying a human death



A Christmas message

2. There's a kingdom thing

- "... on the throne of his father David.."
- i.e. "once in royal David's city ..." = the royal family of ancient Israel
- Envisages not a republic, but a monarchy
- i.e. a Kingdom with a King ...
- ==> C.S.Lewis so perceptively saw via Narnia ... the world is made for a King who is a son of Adam. When he comes as a baby all wrongs begin to be put right
- ==> Game-changer ... ultimate cosmic truth is a monarchy rather than a democracy then life is not a question of being shrewd voters but whole hearted subjects ...



A Christmas message

- *There's some great reasons to sing*
 - *To have a happy , joyful, Christmas*
- *1. prediction -of a God who has the world in his hand*
- *2. the baby thing ... a God who sets things right via weakness and humanness and paying the price humanly*
- *3. King thing ... the vision of a Kingdom of rightness and final human flourishing via a right relation to this King*
- *I wish you a happy Christmas ... let's sing!*

