



**Inverurie** West Parish Church

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## **Christmas Eve Watchnight Service: 1130 pm**

Welcome to our united Watchnight worship with the congregations of Inverurie West and St Andrew's, as well as guests and friends, some of us here in the building, others online.

**Welcome**

**Lighting of Advent Candles & gathering prayer**

**Reading 1: It's getting darker by Malcom Guite**

**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**Reading 2: Luke 2: 1-7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER (Verses 1&2; 4&5)**

**Reading 3: Luke 2: 8-20**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## **IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

**Reflection: (including Amazing Peace by Maya Angelou)**

**Prayer**

**Christmas greetings**

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**Blessing**

*Join us in the morning at 10.00 am for Christmas Day worship at St Andrew's*