

2025 ALL-AGE CHRISTMAS TALK, 14.12.25, LUKE 2:8-20

CHRISTMAS – ALL CREATION SINGS; OF SHARING WARMTH

My talk is not a 3-point sermon. My focus today is on three different animals. Let's start with sheep. An obvious place to start in talking about the good news of Christmas. First announced to a bunch of shepherds on a windswept hillside overlooking Bethlehem. The Shepherds were very glad to have sheep, because they kept them warm through those cold nights. Likewise, aren't we glad of our woolly jumpers to keep US warm? Thank God for sheep & for wool. But this Christmas we thank God even more for the good news proclaimed to the shepherds – a Saviour born to them. This news warmed their hearts & today it warms our hearts: a Saviour has been born to us. Alleluia !

Secondly, let us thank God for gorillas. Bit of a leap for a Christmas service, I realise. It's been discovered that when gorillas eat, they sing! Each one has a unique song they sing over their food. Nothing quite like the simple joy of enjoying our food is there? The good news of Christmas is that God has sent us the bread of heaven. What a feast! The living Word of God is the best diet for our souls & hearts & minds. Praise the LORD!

Thirdly, thank God for penguins...! Don't you just love the film 'Happy Feet' ? That story of one young penguin & his colony combines a number of different themes from the Christmas story. This particular penguin called with his 'happy feet' gives us the picture of all creation singing & dancing at the goodness of life & the glory of God. There's also the picture I have in my mind of colonies of Emperor Penguins enduring the harshest of winters that our planet has to offer. These penguins, together, are able to endure those long, dark Antarctic winters. What do they do? They huddle together & share their warmth. But they don't just stand there. They all keep moving, tiny steps, so that they circle around & take turns to bear the brunt of the freezing wind. A remarkable collective consciousness. They perform this corporate dance together to survive the most hostile conditions. There's something for Carey to aspire to through this difficult winter... We will need more than Xmas jumpers...

This Christmas, together, we feed off God's warmth & each other's warmth. Together with all creation, we sing of the good news of Christmas that heaven has shared the warmth of God's heart with us all – the sunshine of God's love... Alleluia ! (READ ROMANS 5:5... & LUKE 2:19) Praise the LORD!

I will finish with a poem by Jeremy Williams: 'Earthed'...