

Christmas Carol 2025

By God's Grace may I speak in the name of the God who was and is and is to come. Amen.

You don't belong here. Go back to where you came from. No room for you here. We don't want you. Have you ever experienced words or actions of this kind directed at you? It is painful. It can be really scary. And it can make us feel utterly alone.

When Jesus was born, there was no room for him either. The Son of God, the King of Kings, was laid in a manger. There was no room for Mary, Joseph and their baby. It was made clear to them that they did not belong, that they better go back to where they came from, that they were not wanted. King in a manger. God became one of us, unwanted and pushed away to where only a manger was available for him.

Yet this little, helpless infant King in the manger turns rejection into welcome and belonging. The smelly shepherds, themselves outcasts, are welcomed around that manger and so are the magi, wealthy and powerful. All who wish to belong, are welcomed by that tiny infant in the manger, to witness the miracle of God's love for us all, whether we have more in common with the smelly shepherds or the wealthy and powerful magi. We are all welcomed by the infant King in a manger.

The King in the manger welcomes us all to come and belong. There is enough room for us all here. God's love has room for all. God who became one of us welcomes you and invites you to belong. And as we draw nearer to the manger, we come closer to one another and the Christ Child teaches us not to fear each other, but to make room, to share welcome and to offer a sense of belonging across our differences. Are you willing to receive and to share the welcome of the King in a manger this Christmas?
Amen.