

On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years
will bring,
Yet we know you clothe each flower and you make each
sparrow sing.
How much more will you protect us with your guiding,
caring hand!
By your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future you have
planned.

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Blessing

Closing music: Toccata for Flute, by P A Yon

***You are welcome to go through to the foyer for a cuppa.
If you are visiting or it's your first time here,
please introduce yourself to a steward.***



The flowers for our first Sunday of the year are an annual gift from Margaret Pratt, in memory of her mother, Doris Savage, pillar of Carrs Lane Church in former times, whom many of us remember with great respect. We are grateful for Margaret's faithful support in flowers over the past several decades.

The Church at Carrs Lane

Sunday 5th January

**Service of Holy Communion
with Covenant Service
and Reception of new Elders**

With Neil Johnson, Ruth Yorke and Elaine Hutchinson

***We are an inclusive and affirming Church.
You are welcome just as you are.***

Today we are using 'Singing the Faith'

Opening Music:

Allegretto from Sonata in B Flat, K 570, by W A Mozart

Voluntary in B Flat, by J Battishill

Welcome

Call to worship

Hymn 34: O worship the Lord

Prayers

Offering (*An opportunity to give financially to the church. There is no obligation to give, it is just as you decide or are able.*)
Music: Prelude in G by F Linley

Bible readings: A reading from the Prophets. Jeremiah 31:31-34 is read.

For the word that inspires us **we praise you, O God.**

A reading from the Epistles. Romans 12:1-2 is read.

For the truth that enlightens us **we praise you, O God.**

The gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12.

This is the gospel of Christ: **Praise to Christ our Lord**

The Gospel, John 15:1-10 is read.

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Hymn 443: Come let us sing of a wonderful love

Introduction to The Covenant

Prayers of confession

Hymn 549: Come, let us use the grace divine

The Covenant commitment

Hymn 564: O thou who camest from above

Promises of new Elders

'Our Commitment'

Prayers for others

Holy Communion

The bread is gluten-free and the wine in small cups is non-alcoholic. All are welcome.

Song: On this day of celebration

On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.

You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history.
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.

Long ago, you sent our Saviour to this world in deep despair.
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:
Yesterday, today, forever — Jesus Christ is still the same!

Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.