

181223pm Festival of Christmas - God's Gift for All Nations

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Date: 23 December 2018

Preacher: Paul Brennan

[0 : 00] tdy grcup day nak Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

[2 : 56] Make your way downstairs after the evening program is complete. There are some coffee stands up here too. If you find stairs a bit difficult, you're very welcome to be served up here.

What we're going to be reminded about this evening, I hope, is that Christmas is not just a Scottish tradition, not just a British tradition. Certainly not even something just for the Western world, not at all.

The message of Christmas is, in fact, the only thing that gives meaning to our whole world. And the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope for all the peoples of this world.

But it is giving meaning and hope, giving meaning and hope to people of every nation, of many, many nations, even right here in our city, in Glasgow, and in our church, in this congregation.

And we're going to see that tonight. Well, we're going to begin our evening by singing together.

Some of you will know the name Timothy Dudley Smith. He's probably the finest of our contemporary hymn writers.

[3 : 59] He combines deep theological truth with the most beautifully crafted poetic words. And we love to sing his hymns. We know quite a few of his carols, but there are many that we don't know and many that we haven't sung.

I'm told that his tradition is that every year, and this goes back, I think, more than 50 years now, every year he has penned a new Christmas carol in his Christmas card to his friends.

And Matt has got for us an anthology of these. And we're going to, among other things, sing Christmas with Timothy Dudley Smith this evening.

And this first song, it bids us to remember that as we get deeper into the darkness of winter, we must let the season take our thoughts to the wonder of Christmas.

Chill of the nightfall, lamps in the windows, letting their light fall clear on the snow. Bitter December, let us remember Christ in the stable long ago.

[4 : 58] Moving on. Sanpio. My name is Aaron.

I'm going to pray with you. ORGAN PLAYS ORGAN PLAYS

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PLAYS Jesus, the King of the Jews. And we're singing that because that's a carol with both Farsi words and English words, so we can all sing together. But then we are going to learn a proper Farsi carol taught by our friends, and they're going to sing to us and then help us to sing along with them in Farsi. But first of all, we're going to read that story from the Bible about the Magi from Matthew chapter 2, and Sia is going to come and read for us in Farsi. If you understand Farsi, look at your Farsi Bibles. If not, you can look at the screens or your own Bible, and you'll see it comes up in English, and we can follow along. So Sia.

Sia.

[9 : 14] Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia.

Sia. Sia. Sia. Sia. He said, He said,

He said, He said, He said,

He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[14 : 59] He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
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He said, He said, He said,
[22 : 29] He said, He said, He said,
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He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[29 : 59] He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[37 : 59] He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[45 : 29] He said, He said, And Simeon,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[52 : 58] He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[60 : 28] He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
He said, He said, He said,
[67 : 58] He said, He said, He said,
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[75 : 28] He said, He said, He said,
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[82 : 58] He said, He said,