



# CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

6.30pm



## **A very warm welcome to our service of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.**

Everything you need for the service is found in this booklet.

Please would you stand for the congregational carols and remain seated for the readings and during pieces sung by the Choir alone.

The congregation is welcomed informally before the service begins.

### **The Collection**

We would ask that you donate either via the machine in the entrance lobby or using our new QR code. Simply scan the code using your smart phone and you will be immediately taken to our Total Giving page.

However, if this is not possible then please leave cash donations in one of the collection plates available.



Please take care with your candle this evening and blow it out as you wish during the service.

*A prayer you may wish to make your own this Christmas time:*

Come to us, Christmas God  
Christ Child of Bethlehem  
Spirit of wonder  
be born in us and your world once more,  
that joy may be shared  
peace proclaimed  
and love abound.  
now and forever,  
**Amen.**

## **Processional Carol** *please stand*

*First verse sung as a solo by a chorister*

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

**He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

## **Bidding Prayer** *sit*

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**Our Father,**  
which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil;**  
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **First Lesson                      Genesis 3.8-15**

'The Fall'

## **Anthem**

Frohlocket ihr Völker  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

## **Second Lesson                      Genesis 22.15-18**

'The Promise to Abraham'

## **Carol                      *please stand***

**Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new,  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.**

**Refrain:**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?***

**God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human:  
*Refrain***

**Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected,  
*Refrain***

**Journey ends! Where afar  
Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes!  
Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!***

### **Third Lesson**

'The prophecy of Isaiah'

### **Isaiah 9.2, 6-7**

### **Anthem**

O magnum mysterium

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 -1611)

### **Fourth Lesson**

'The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem'

### **Micah 5.2-4**

**Carol**     *please stand*

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

## **Fifth Lesson Luke 1.26-38**

'The Annunciation'

## **Anthem**

Ding Dong Merrily on High  
arr. Charles Wood (1866 - 1926)

## **Sixth Lesson Luke 1.26-38**

'The Birth of Emmanuel'

## **Carol**

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.**

**'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,  
and on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'**

## **Seventh Lesson Luke 2. 8-16**

'The Shepherds and the Angels'

### **Anthem**

In dulci júbilo

arr. Robert Lucas de Pearsall (1795 - 1856)

## **Eighth Lesson Matthew 2.1-11**

'The Magi are led by the star to Jesus'

### **Carol**

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the King of angels:**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*Refrain***

**See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;  
*Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
in the highest':  
*Refrain***

**Ninth Lesson                      John 1.1-14                      *please stand***  
'The Incarnation of the Word of God'

## **Anthem**

In the bleak midwinter  
Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

## **A Final Thought**

Rev Canon Anna Norman-Walker

## **Anthem**

Where Riches is Everlastingly  
Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

**Carol                      *please stand***

**Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

**Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace;  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.**

## **The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The choir, crucifer, acolytes and clergy process during the voluntary*

## **Organ Voluntary**