



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20 December 2020
6.00 pm



Organ Prelude

It came upon the midnight clear
arr. Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

Welcome and Introduction

Carol: Once in royal David's city

Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the Choir only.

Verses 3, 4, 5, and 6 are sung by all.

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.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

**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;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas-tide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

Choir: Of the Father's heart begotten

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n his praises;
Angels and archangels sing!
Where-so-e'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Words: Aurelius Prudentius (c. 348-413)

translated by Robert Davis (1866-1937)

Music: Plainsong melody

adapted by Theodoricus Petrus in 'Piae Cantiones' (1582)

Lesson: Genesis 3: 8-14

The Fall

Read by Maya Harrison
Principal Keeper,
Temple Newsam House

Carol: It came upon the midnight clear

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

Read by Nicola Stoner

Specialist Community Cardiac Nurse

Choir: In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Lesson: Luke I: 26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

*Read by Debra Couper
Deputy Leader,
Leeds City Council*

Choir: The angel Gabriel

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!"

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Basque melody arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

Carol: The holly and the ivy

**The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.**

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

**The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.**

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

**The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.**

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

**The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas day in the morn.**

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7

The birth of Jesus

*Read by Fergal Hughes
Funeral Director,
Hughes Funeral Services*

Choir: Ding dong! merrily on high

Ding dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel-singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your eve-time song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Words: George Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: 16th century French melody arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

**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.**

**How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
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.**

Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

*Read by Giles Taylor
Organist and Director of Music
St Mary's Church, Whitkirk*

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks

**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 heav'nly 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 to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'**

Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11

The magi are led by the star to Jesus

*Read by Amanda Lightfoot
Head Teacher,
Austhorpe Primary School*

Carol: We three kings

**We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again –
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God most high:**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heav'n sings alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies:**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

Choir: Sing lullaby

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant king.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,

Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king.

Soon will come sorrow with the morning,

Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:

Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-dozing,

Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king.

Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,

Then in the grave at last reposing:

Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby! is the babe a-waking?

Sing lullaby!

Hush, do not stir the infant king.

Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,

Conquering death, its bondage breaking:

Sing lullaby!

Words: Sabine Baring Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Basque Noël arr. Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Lesson: John 1: 1-14

The Incarnation of the Word of God

*Read by David Scholey
Former Churchwarden,
St Mary's Church, Whitkirk*

Choir: A New Year carol

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

Words: Anonymous

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad
with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ;
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever

Amen.

The Blessing

May he who by his Incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
Fill you with the sweetness
of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Carol: Hark! the herald-angels sing

**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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'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 heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.**

Organ Voluntary

*Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Translation:

*Let all together praise our God upon his lofty throne:
He hath his heavens unclosed today, and given to us his Son.*

Support our work

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It came upon the midnight clear
arr. N. Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

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Once in royal David's city
Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) arr. A.H. Mann (1850-1929)
Verse 6 arr: D. V. Willcocks (1919-2015)

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The angel Gabriel from heaven came
Basque melody arr. E. Pettman (1866-1943)
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The holly and the ivy
Music: English folk carol arr. A. V. Fish (b. 1956)

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O little town of Bethlehem
Music: English traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Verse 3 arr. T. Armstrong (1898-1984)

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We three kings of Orient are
Words & Music: J. H. Hopkins (1820-1891) arr. D. V. Willcocks (1919-2015)
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Sing lullaby
Music: Basque Noël arr. P. Moore (b. 1943)
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A New Year carol
Music: B. Britten (1913-1976)
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Hark! the herald-angels sing
Music: F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Verse 3 arr. D. V. Willcocks (1919-2015)
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