

# **A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday 16th December 2018**

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

**A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!**

**Thank you for joining us today.**

## **Copyright information.**

**Readings.** Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version Anglicised (ESVUK) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. **Prayers.** Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council (2000). **Hymns.** All hymn words reproduced under CCL Licence No. 36619.

*please be seated*

---

**CHOIR: Good Christians all, rejoice**

---

*please remain seated*

**THE SECOND LESSON: Micah 5.2-4**

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem

---

*please stand*

**CAROL: Long ago, prophets knew**

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.

*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:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...*

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

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring...*

Journey ends, where afar  
Bethlem 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.*

*F. Pratt Green (1903-2000), Music: arr. G. Holst (1874-1934)*

---

*please be seated*

**THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 1.26-28**

The angel Gabriel greets Mary

---

*please remain seated*

**CHOIR: Joys seven**

---

---

*please remain seated*

**WELCOME**

---

*please stand*

**CAROL: O come, all ye faithful**

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:

*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:

*O come, let us adore him...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
'glory to God  
in the highest':

*O come, let us adore him...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born on Christmas morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing.

*O come, let us adore him...*

*Frederick Oakley (1802-1880) and others*

---

*please be seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON: 1 John 1.1-7**

The Light of the World

---

*please stand*

**CAROL: The angel Gabriel from heaven came**

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 favour'd 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 favour'd 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 favour'd 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 favour'd lady,' Gloria!

*Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

---

*please be seated*

**THE FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1.18-23**

The angel appears to Joseph

---

*please stand*

**CAROL: God rest you merry, gentlemen**

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay!  
For Jesus Christ our saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we had gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

At Bethlehem in Judah  
the holy babe was born;  
they laid him in a manger  
on that most happy morn:  
at which his mother Mary  
did neither fear nor scorn  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all people in this place!  
With Christian love and fellowship  
each other now embrace,  
and let this Christmas festival  
all bitterness displace:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

*Traditional*

---

*please be seated*

**THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2.1-7**

The birth of Jesus

---

*please remain seated*

**CHOIR: Still, still, still**

---

*please remain seated*

**THE SIXTH LESSON: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7**

Christ's birth and kingdom foretold

---

*please stand*

**CAROL: What child is this?**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring Him praise,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spears shall pierce him through,  
the cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
all tongues and people own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high,  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the Son of Mary.

---

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

*please be seated*

## **THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2.8-14**

The shepherds go to the manger

---

*please remain seated*

### **CHOIR: The Mistle Carol**

---

*please stand*

### **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.

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

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.

*Philip Brooks (1835-1893)*

---

*please be seated*

## **THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2.1-12**

The wise men are led to Jesus

---

*please remain seated*

## **CHOIR: We three kings**

---

*please stand*

### **CAROL: As with gladness men of old**

As with gladness men of old  
did the shining star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
so may we, with willing feet,  
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at Thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our Heavenly King.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun, which goes not down.  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

*William C. Dix (1837-1898)*

---

*please remain standing*

## **THE NINTH LESSON: John 1.1-5, 9-14**

The mystery of the incarnation

---

*please remain standing*

### **CAROL: Joy to the world**

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Your sweetest songs employ;  
while fields and streams and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove,  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

---

*please be seated*

## **THE CHRISTMAS ADDRESS**

---

*please stand*

### **CAROL: Hark! the herald-angels sing**

Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all you 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 newborn 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...*

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...*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

---

*please remain standing*

## **THE BLESSING**

---

*please be seated*

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**