



**Welcome to St Alban's Church
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
20th December 2020**

- 1 **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.**

- 2 **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.**

- 3 **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.**

- 4 **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.

5 And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

6 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.

(Cecil Francis Alexander)

Bidding Prayer:

We say together **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Reading I: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7 Christ's birth foretold by the prophet

Carol

**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!**

**2. Joy to the earth! 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!**

**3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Reading 2: Isaiah 52. 7-10 *The promise of God's salvation*

Carol

**1 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.**

**2 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.

3 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.

4 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. *(Phillips Brooks)*

Reading 3: Micah 5:2-4 The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

Carol

1 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!

2 'For know, 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!

3 Then gently 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!**

4 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!**

(Basque Carol trans. Sabine Baring-Gould)

Reading 4: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary

Carol

**Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head,
the stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever,
and love me, I pray.**

**Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven,
to live with thee there.**

Verses 1&2 unknown (19th Century)

Verse 3 J. T. McFarland (c.1906)

Reading 5: Matthew 1:18-23 The birth of Emmanuel

Carol

- 1 Silent night, holy night,
all is calm all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild:
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

- 2 Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.**

- 3 Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. *(Joseph Mohr trans. J. Young)***

Reading 6: Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus

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 minds),
'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 a 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 to the earth be peace,
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate ((1652-1750)

Reading 7: Luke 2:8 -16 The shepherds go to the manger

Carol

I The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

**2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

**5 Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

**6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain***

Reading 8: Matthew 2:1-11 Wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Carol O Holy Night – Solo by Hannah

Reading 9: John 1:1-14 The Incarnation of the Word of God

Carol

**1 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.**

- 2 God of God,
light of light,
lo! he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:**
- 3 See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:**
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest (18th Century, tr F. Oakeley)**

Prayers and Blessing

Carol

- 1 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.**

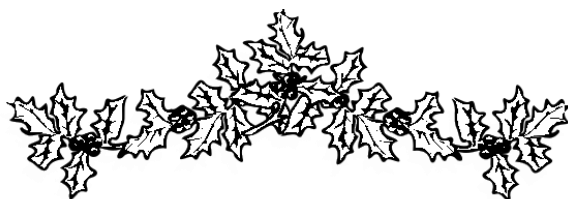
***Refrain: Hark, the herald Angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.***

- 2 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.

- 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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. *(C. Wesley and others)*

WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



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