



St Mary's Church
Saffron Walden
Sharing God's Love

A SERVICE OF NINE
LESSONS & CAROLS
19TH DECEMBER 2021
6.30PM

Carol **Once in royal David's city**

Verse 1 Solo

All 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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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.

Please remain standing

Bidding Prayer

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 men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

Choir 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.

Please sit

First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3: 8-15

Richard Garvey, Sidesman

Choir This Endris Night

Christopher Rathbone

This endris night I saw a sight, a star as bright as day,
And ever among, a maiden sung, Lullay, by by, Lullay.
This lovely lady sat and sang, And to her child did say:
'My Son, my brother, Father dear, why liest thus in hay?'
'Yea Angels bright shine down on me in crib though I so lay
And for that sight thou may'st delight to sing By by, Lullay.
Ye shall well see that kings three shall kneel before this stall
For Lords and Dukes shall worship me, and so shall kings
all.'
Thou child or man who will or can be merry on this day,
To bliss thou bring and I shall sing Lullay, by, by, Lullay.

Please stand

Carol 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.**

**He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.**

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.**

Please sit

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold. Pam Russell, Flower Team

Choir Riu, riu, chiu (Spanish) attr. Flecha

1. The furious wolf tried to bite her, but almighty God protected her well: he made her in such a way that she could know no sin, a virgin unstained by our first father's fault. *Riu, riu, chiu, the shepherd by the river: God protected our Ewe from the wolf.*
2. This new-born Child is a mighty monarch, the patriarchal Christ clothed in flesh; he redeemed us by making himself tiny; he was infinite, then became finite. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*
3. Many prophecies foretold his coming, and now in our time we have seen them fulfilled. God became man, we see him on earth, and we see man in heaven because God loved him. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*
4. I saw a thousand young angels singing as they flew, making a thousand sounds, chanting to all good Spaniards: glory be in the heavens and peace on earth, now that Jesus is born! *Riu, riu, chiu..*
5. He comes to give life to the dead and to atone for man's fall: this very Babe is the Light of Day, the Lamb of whom St. John spoke. *Riu, riu, chiu...*
6. Look to it! It concerns you all: God made her a mere mother, he who was her father was born of her today; and he who created her calls himself her son. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*
7. Now we have gained what we desired, let us go together to present him our gifts; let each resign his will to the God who was willing to come down to earth to become man's equal. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*

(Adapted from translation by NOCB after Robert Pring-Mill)

Third Lesson

The Gospel brings comfort to those who will hear it.

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Alex Lingley, Aftershock Youth

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 were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!*

O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name:

O tidings of

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessed babe to find.

O tidings of

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray:

O tidings of

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all other doth efface:

O tidings of

Please sit

Fourth Lesson

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1: 26-38

Hazel Colebrooke,
Prayer Team

Choir A Maiden Most Gentle Mary Richardson

A Maiden most gentle and tender we sing,
Of Mary the Mother of Jesus our King.
How blest is the birth of her heavenly child,
Who came down to redeem us in Mary so mild.

Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave Maria,
Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call,
The Lord of creation and Saviour of us all.
Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare.
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.

Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave Maria,
Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray,
Sing praise to the saviour, sing endless ava.
Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray,
Sing praise to the saviour, sing endless ava.

Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave, ave, ave Maria,
Ave Maria,
Ave Maria.

Fifth Lesson

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1: 18-23

Edward Gildea, Eco Church

Choir O Holy Night arr. Rutter

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
'Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees!
Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born,
O night, O holy night, o night divine!
O night, O holy night, o night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Now come the wise men from out of the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friends.
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King!
Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King!
Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord!
Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Please stand

Carol Silent Night

**Silent Night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin and her child,
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams thy holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Please sit

Sixth Lesson

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2: 1-16

Pamela Mugliston,
Friends of St Mary's

Choir Small wonder the star Paul Edwards

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God - no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross - no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart- no small wonder!

Seventh Lesson

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Matthew 2: 1-11

Jenny Kirkaldy,
Mothers' Union

Choir On Christmas Night arr. Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born king.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen."

Please stand

Carol While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Trad. arr. Gordon Smith

This carol was as popular in the eighteenth century as it is today, but the tunes to which it was sung were many and varied. The instrumental accompaniment to hymns in the eighteenth century was often provided by local musicians on a variety of instruments using traditional folk-tunes; this music is known collectively as West Gallery Music (as that is where these musicians were habitually placed), and tonight's service uses a well-known Yorkshire folk-song, a favourite tune of the time for this carol. The congregation should note that the third line of verses 2, 3, 5, and 6 is sung three times: first by middle voices (female and male), second by the lower men's voices, and third by the higher female voices.

Choir While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, (x 3)
All and glory shone around. (x 3)

**All 'Fear not,' said he, 'for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
glad tidings of great joy I bring (x 3)
to you and all mankind. (x 3)**

**All 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, (x 3)
and this shall be the sign: (x 3)**

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

Brass interlude

**All Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a heavenly throng
of angels praising God, who thus (x 3)
addressed their joyful song: (x 3)**

**All 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men (x 3)
begin and never cease.' (x 3)**

Please sit

Eighth Lesson

The humility and glory of the Incarnation

Philippians 2: 5-11

Eden Faith, St Mary's Choir

Choir Ding Dong! Merrily on High Wilberg

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 ...

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria ...

Please stand

Ninth Lesson

St. John unfolds the great mystery
of the Incarnation.

John 1: 1-14

Gill Caswell, Churchwarden

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest.'

O come, let us adore him...

Please remain standing

Blessing

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 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 newborn 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, 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:
Glory to the newborn king!*

Voluntary Trumpet Tune Johnson

Please remain standing while the choir and clergy leave

There will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

