



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

A SERVICE OF NINE  
LESSONS & CAROLS  
20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020  
6.30PM

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

*Verse 1 Solo*

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.

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 heaven 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;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

**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.

## First Lesson

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

## Genesis 3: 8-15

## Choir The Truth from Above

*Traditional, arr. R. Vaughan Williams*

### Verse 1 Solo

This is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love:  
therefore don't turn me from your door,  
but harken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
is that God did man create;  
the next thing which to you I'll tell  
woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run  
that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear;  
he here did live, and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

### Verse 5 Solo

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say.

## Second Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold.

## Isaiah 9: 2-7

Simon Potter, Bellringer

## Choir In the bleak midwinter Darke

### 1 Solo

In the bleak midwinter  
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 midwinter,  
long ago.

### 3 Solo

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.

### 2

Our God heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

### 4

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 give him -  
give my heart.

## Third Lesson

The Gospel brings comfort to  
those who will hear it.

## Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Gill Caswell, Churchwarden

**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.

**Fourth Lesson**

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

**Luke 1: 26-38**

Anthony Armon-Jones,  
Transition Project

**Choir    The angel Gabriel from heaven came**

*Traditional, an old Basque Carol arr. by Pettman*

*Verse 1 Solo*

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 blessèd 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!

**Fifth Lesson**

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

**Matthew 1: 18-23**

Judith Hasler,  
Pastoral Assistant

**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  
rejoiced 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 .....*

## Sixth Lesson

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

## Luke 2: 1-16

Robin Betser, Server

## Choir Sans day carol trad: arr. Rutter

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,  
And Mary bore Jesus who rose from the dead,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

## Seventh Lesson

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

## Matthew 2: 1-11

Jenny Kirkaldy,  
Overseas Mission link

## Carol Good King Wenceslas

*All* Good King Wenceslas looked out  
on the Feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep, and crisp, and even:  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight,  
gath'ring winter fuel.

*Low* 'Hither page, and stand by me,  
*Voices* if thou know'st it, telling,  
yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?'  
*High* 'Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
*Voices* underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence,  
by Saint Agnes' fountain.'

*Low* 'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,  
bring me pine-logs hither:  
thou and I will see him dine,  
when we bear them thither.'

*All* Page and monarch, forth they went,  
forth they went together;  
through the rude wind's wild lament  
and the bitter weather.

*High* 'Sire, the night is darker now,  
and the wind blows stronger;  
fails my heart, I know not how;  
I can go no longer.'

*Low* 'Mark my footsteps, good my page;  
tread thou in them boldly:  
thou shalt find the winter's rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.'

*All* In his master's steps he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod  
which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth or rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor,  
shall yourselves find blessing.

## Eighth Lesson

The humility and glory of the Incarnation

## Philippians 2: 5-11

Edward Gildea,  
Eco team leader

## Choir Sir Christemas W. Mathias

*Nowell, nowell.*

Who is there that singeth so, Nowell, nowell?  
I am here, Sir Christèmas.  
Welcome my lord Sir Christèmas!  
Welcome to all, both more and less,  
Come near, come near.

*Nowell, nowell.*

Dieu vous garde, beau sieurs, tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young,  
which causeth you to sing: Nowell, nowell.  
Christ is now born of a pure maid, born of a pure maid;  
In an ox-stall he is laid, Wherefore sing we at a brayde:

*Nowell, nowell.*

Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.  
Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully.

*Nowell, nowell.*

## Ninth Lesson

St. John unfolds the great mystery  
of the incarnation

## John 1: 1-14

Marisa Baltrock,  
Licensed Lay Minister

### 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...*

## 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!*

### Organ In dulci jubilo BWV 729 - J S Bach

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