



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

A Service of Nine lessons
& Carols
22nd December 2024
6.30pm

Carol Once in royal David's city

Solo 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.

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

Kathryn Bennett, Welcomer

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)

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. Gill Caswell, Tinies

Choir Small wonder the star 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!

Third Lesson

The Gospel brings comfort to
those who will hear it.

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Ellie Beare, St Mary's Choir

Please stand

Carol Unto us is born a son

**Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal,
of lords the Lord eternal.**

**Christ, from heav'n descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.**

**This did Herod sore affray
and grievously bewilder;
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer,
and slew the little childer.**

**Of his love and mercy mild
this the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle child
might lead us up to glory,
might lead us up to glory!**

**O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino,
benedicamus Domino.**

Please sit

Fourth Lesson

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1: 26-38

Gwynneth Nicholas,
Mothers' Union

Choir O Holy Night arr. Rutter

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour'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!

Fifth Lesson

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1: 18-23

Pamela Mugliston,
Friends of St Mary's

Choir **Bogoroditse Djevo**

Pärt

Bögöroditsye Dyevo, raduissya,
Bögöroditsye Dyevo, raduissya
Blagödatnaya Mariye, Gospod Töboyu.
Blagödatnaya Mariye, Gospod Töboyu.
Blagöslövyenna Tyivzhenakh,
i blagöslövyen Plodchryeva Tvöyego,
yako Spassa rödila yessidush nashikh.
yako Spassa rödila yessidush nashikh.
Bögöroditsye Dyevo, raduissya
Blagödatnaya Mariye, Gospod Töboyu.
Blagöslövyenna Tyivzhenakh,
i blagöslövyen Plodchryeva Tvöyego,
yako Spassa rödila yessidush nashikh.

Virgin Mother of God,
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
For you gave birth to the saviour of our souls

Please stand

Carol Silent Night

All **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.**

Solo 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.

All **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

Edward Gildea
Eco Church

Choir A babe is born

Mathias

A babe is born all of a may,
O bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day,
Veni Creator Spiritus.

At Bethlehem that blessed place,
the child of bliss now born he was.
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata trinitas.

There came three kings out of the east,
to worship the king that is so free.
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine.

The angels came down with one cry,
a fair song that night sung they,
In worship of that child,
Gloria tibi Domine.

A babe is born all of a may,
to bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day,
Veni Creator Spiritus.

Seventh Lesson

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Matthew 2: 1-11

Vivian Falk
Prayer Team

Choir And the glory of the Lord

Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together,
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

Please stand

Carol

Good King Wenceslas

All Good King Wenceslas last 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.

Please sit

Eighth Lesson

The humility and glory of the Incarnation

Philippians 2: 5-11

Bianca Stabellini,
Guides

Choir Ding Dong! Merrily on High Mack 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 Rev'd Jeremy Trew, Rector
of the Incarnation.

John 1: 1-14

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!***

Voluntary

Joy to the World

Craig Garner

Please remain standing while the choir and clergy leave

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

If you would prefer to give to today's collection electronically, please use this QR code. Many thanks.



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