



Carol Service

13 December 2022

7 p.m.

THE WELCOME

Please stand at the entry of the clergy.

Choir alone,

*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.

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, his praise will sound.

Words: Mrs C F Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: H J Gauntlett, 1805-1876

The Welcome

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We have gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We hear revealed in Holy Scripture the mystery of God's loving purpose for us - how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory. Let us celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that we may bear witness to God's glory and bring light to those who sit in darkness.

So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people, we pray for the Christmas Appeal of the Mothers' Union, for all women and families in South Sudan whose lives have been marked by war and violence, that working together they may be healed from their trauma, and start building a new future together.

May all the members of the Mothers' Union bear witness to the hope of Christmas in a divided world, that the whole earth may live to praise our Saviour's name

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting,
now and always.

All **Amen.**

THE CAROLS AND READINGS

All sit.

A stable lamp is lighted
whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbour heaven,
a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city
shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
though heavy, dull and dumb,
and lie within the roadway
to pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken,
and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
for gifts of love abused;
God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's blood again refused.

But now, as at the ending,
the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
in praises of the child
by whose descent among us
the worlds are reconciled.

Words: Richard Wilbur, 1921-2017
Music: Paulette Tollefson, 1946-2022

Reading

Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

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 to-night.

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 alone,

*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.*

All,

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!

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: English traditional, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958,

Descant: Thomas Armstrong, 1898-1994

All sit.,

*Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding*

Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple
Bid good people
Come adore the new-born King:

Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,

Showering blessings far and wide.
Born of mother, blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable
('Tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1848-1934

Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582

Reading

Micah 5.2-4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carols sung by Choir

Lully, lullah, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay"?

Herod the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee
And ever mourn and may
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay."

Words: 15th Century, from Coventry

Music: original tune of 1591, arranged by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

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 you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my bedside til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

Words: attributed to Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Music:

All stand.

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 mind);
"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 the 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 on the earth be peace;
good-will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Words: Nahum Tate, 1652-1715
Music: Old Basque Noël

THE ADDRESS

Bev Julien,
CEO of the Mothers' Union

Carol sung by Choir

I saw a maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a child, a sweete Lording.
Lullay, lullay, my dear son, my sweeting.
lullay, lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling.

This very Lord he made alle thing:
of lordes the Lord, of kinges the King.

There was mickle melody at that childes birth:
and all in heaven's bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels sang that night and saiden to that child:
Now blest be thou and she, both meek and mild.

Pray we to that child and to his mother dear,
his blessing to them that maken now cheer.

Words: 15th Century
Music: Old Basque Noël

Reading

St Luke 2. 1-7

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

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 heaven above;
Glory to God,
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him...

*Words: Latin, 18th Century, translated by Frederick Oakeley
Music: J F Wade, 1711-1786*

THE PRAYERS

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Mary Sumner Prayer

All **All this day, O Lord, let me touch
as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.**

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.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born 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 with us in flesh 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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth:

Hark! the herald angels sing...

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809-1847

THE BLESSING

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
✠ the Father, the Sun, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

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