



Christmas Carol Service

19th December 2021, 6pm

Once in Royal David's city *(verses 1 & 2 are sung by the choir only).*

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

Bidding Prayer

Genesis 3:8-14 *The Fall.*

Of the Father's love begotten

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face
evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts his praises sing,
powers, dominions bow before him
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Genesis 22:15-18 *The promise to Abraham.*

Unto us a boy is born

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of ev'ry nation.

2. Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he the world surpasses.

3. Herod then with fear was filled:
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
And all the little boys he killed
At Beth'hem in his fury.

Isaiah 9:2,6,7 *The prophesy of the Messiah's birth*

It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on heavenly wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

4TH LESSON: **Micah 5:2-4** *The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.*

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.

4. Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

5. Alpha and Omega he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Shall rend the air asunder.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-angels' strain have rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not,
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendours fling,
And all the world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all 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.

Luke 1:26-38 *The Annunciation to Mary.*

Choir: In the bleak mid-winter *Harold Darke*

Matthew 1:18-23 *The birth of Emmanuel.*

While shepherds watched their flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not' said he, (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled minds);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. '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.

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to the manger.*

Away in a manger

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.

2. 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.

Matthew 2:1-11 *The magi are led to the star by Jesus.*

Choir: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *John Gardner*

John 1:1-14 *The Incarnation of the Word of God.*

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!

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the Seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God,
who thus addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

3. 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 to heaven, to live with thee there.

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!*

2. 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...

3. 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...

Christmas thought & Closing Prayer

Hark! The Herald Angels sing

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!'

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.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'

3. 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 men 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 new-born King!'

The Blessing

Music after the service: Final from Organ Sonata No. 1 by Alexandre Guilmant.