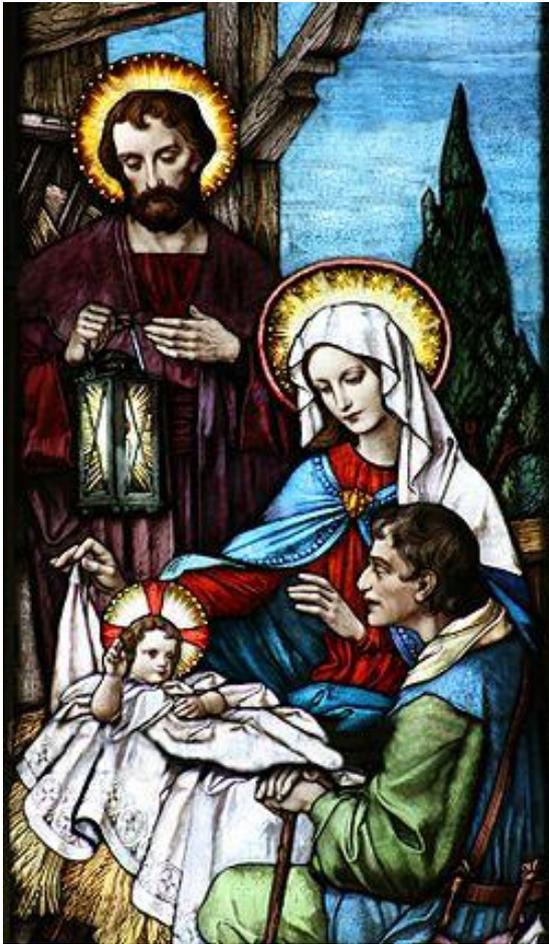


All Saints' Church Weston-super-Mare Carol Service



Live Streamed 7pm Wednesday 16th December 2020
In aid of Weston-super-Mare RNLI

The Service re-tells the Christmas story with a series of scriptural readings, moving from the account of the Fall in Genesis, through the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of Christ, to the Gospel accounts of the birth of the Saviour and culminating in St John's unfolding of 'the great mystery of the Incarnation'.

The progress of the narrative is punctuated by carols and hymns, inspired by, and reflecting upon, the Christmas story.

We especially thank Peter Leech, and the members of Harmonia Sacra, for providing us with such a high-quality musical offering; and we also thank Matthew Nicholls, Bristol Brass Consort, and all the lesson readers for their invaluable contribution to the Service.

Fr. Andrew Hughes
Parish Priest

HYMN

A soloist sings the first verse. Please join in at home for verses 2-6.
You are welcome to join us for all verses of the remaining hymns.

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.

**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 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.**

**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.**

Arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Descant: Willcocks

Soprano soloist: Zoë Maitland-Round

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas-tide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this Administrative District of North Somerset and this town of Weston-super-Mare.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

CHOIR CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Words: Anon. XV Century
Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)

FIRST LESSON

Read by John Crockford-Hawley KCMW

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. GENESIS 3

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of

the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

Jesus Christ, the apple tree

Words: Anon XVIII Century

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

SECOND LESSON

Read by Glyn Hayes (RNLI)

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. ISAIAH 9

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

A great and mighty wonder

Words: St Germanus (634-734)
Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

HYMN

**It came upon the 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.**

**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 hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-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!**

**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 the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

Words: Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

Music: English Traditional arr. Willcocks.

THIRD LESSON

Read by Mark Canniford (Mayor of Weston-super-Mare)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. ST LUKE 1

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

A virgin most pure

Words: Anon. English c.1777
Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

FOURTH LESSON

Read by Peter Elmont (RNLI)

Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus. MATTHEW I

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that thing which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

Cradle song

Words: John Rutter (b.1945)
Music: John Rutter

HYMN

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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
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.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks
Music: English Traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1972-1958)
Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

FIFTH LESSON

Read by Suzie Leech (Harmonia Sacra)

The shepherds go to the manger. ST LUKE 2

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

Torches

Words: J.B.Trend (1887-1958)

Music: John Joubert (1927-2019)

SIXTH LESSON

Read by Janice Rice (Sacristan, All Saints)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. ST MATTHEW 2

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him,

In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR CAROL

Away in a manger

Words: Anon. XIX century American

Music: W.J.Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)/ Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candles are lit to signify our prayers which we make for ourselves and our loved ones, in need or absent. As candles are lit, just recall them by name, and offer your hopes and fears up to God.

Music during candle lighting - **Infant Holy**, Arr. Roger Harvey

CHOIR CAROL

All this time

Words: XVI Century
Music: Sir William Walton (1902-1983)

SEVENTH LESSON

Read by Father Andrew Hughes (Parish Priest, All Saints)

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. ST JOHN 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

**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.**

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

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

Arr. Willcocks

COLLECT & BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

VESPER RESPONSORY (CHOIR)

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
And the Lord, he will be with you.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Words: Responory for First Vespers of Christmas Day
Music: PHILIP LEDGER (1937-2012)

HYMN

**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 th'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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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 new-born King!***

Words: C. Wesley and G. Whitefield
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on 'Helmsley' – Matthew Nicholls

Harmonia Sacra

SOPRANO

**Camilla Argyle
Zoë Maitland-Round
Harriet Potter
Clare Rangeley
Stacey Stockden
Rebecca Thurgur
Piri Uitz**

ALTO

**Suzie Leech
Mary Lockwood
Astrid Pestell
Adele Reynolds
Jill Tolley**

TENOR

**Clare Atyeo
Max Klatt
Peter Leech**

BASS

**Andrew Hornett
Tony Moorby
Charles Pestell
Jamie Potter
David Rodgers
Martin Warren**

Matthew Nicholls – Organ

THE BRISTOL BRASS CONSORT

**Trumpets - Paul Harris, Tom Deakin
Horn - Paul Tomlinson
Trombone - John Cornick
Tuba – Simon Derrick**

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