

Priest The Lord be with you.
All **And with thy spirit.**
Priest 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.

CAROL **Hark the Herald**

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 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: Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Music: F. Mendelssohn T. Whitefield, M. Madan and others. arr. David Willcocks

Organ Voluntary

**The Ministry Team and Wardens wish you
A Happy and Holy Christmas & peaceful 2021**

Services over Christmas

Christmas Eve: 4-00pm Crib Service, 11-30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: 10-30am CW Festal Eucharist

Boxing Day: 9-30am CW Eucharist for St. Stephen

Sunday Dec. 27: 8-00am BCP Holy Communion,

10-30am CW Eucharist for John the Evangelist

Dec. 28: 9-30am CW Eucharist for Holy Innocents

The Parish Church
Of
St. Mary the Virgin
Prestwich



A service of
Nine Lessons & Carols
20 December 2020

Organ Voluntary

Starting in darkness by candlelight

Please remain seated

Choir only

PROCESSIONAL CAROL Once in royal David's City

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.

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.

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.

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.

Words: C. F. Alexander 1823-1895

Melody: H. J. Gauntlett

Harmonised: H. J. Gauntlett and A. H. Mann

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 within the Church he came to build:

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:

*Clergy
All*

Starshine, Moonshine, Sunshine
we will walk with God.

Please Stand

Ninth Lesson

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:

Which 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.

Please sit

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.*

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Words 15th Century

Music arr David Willcocks

Please stand

Collect and Blessing

"When He is King we will give Him a King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music,
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music,
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words: Bruce Blunt 1899-1957
Music: Peter Warlock 1894-1930

Congregational Responsory

Clergy Wise God, you are older than the ages
and you dance in the starlight
All **and you love us.**

Clergy Wise God, you share your bread with strangers
and you welcome little children
All **and you understand us.**

Clergy Wise God, you wrestle with the powerful
and you comfort all who need you
All **and you disturb us**

Clergy Wise God, shining in the darkness
seen by those who love you
found by those who seek you
All **we are here to learn from you.**

Clergy Kings and nations, Weak and powerful
All **All are coming to meet with God.**

Clergy Sons and Daughters, Rich and needy
All **All are coming to meet with God.**

Clergy Strong and mighty, Weak and gentle
All **All are coming to meet with God.**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As
we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into
temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto
the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Invitational Carol Up! Good Christen folk

Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong:
Ding-a-dong-ding.

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

2. Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

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

Words by G.R.Woodward (1848-1934)
Music from Piae Cantiones harm. G.R.Woodward

First Lesson

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. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 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.

CAROL **Adam lay ybounden**

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took,
As clerkēs finden written In their book.
Nay had the apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Nay had never Our Lady A-been heaven'e queen.
Blessed be the time That apple taken was.
Therefore we mon singen Deo gratias!

Words: Anon. 15th century

Music: Philip Ledger

Second Lesson

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,
And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and
hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the
heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his
enemies;
And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my
voice.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL **This is the Truth**

This is the truth sent from above
The truth of God, the God of love
Therefore don't turn me from your door
But hearken will both rich and poor

2.The first thing that 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

3.And after that, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain of evil free
Except they ate of such a tree.

4.But they did eat, which was a sin,
And so their ruin did begin,
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

5.Thus we were heirs to endless woes
Till God and Lord did interpose
And so a promise soon did run
That He would redeem us by His Son

Words Trad. English carol

Music By R.Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Arr. From O.B.C. and Fantasia on Christmas Carol

Third Lesson

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

CAROL **In the bleak midwinter**

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.

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.

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.

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 I give him: give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti 1830-94

Music: Harold Darke 1888-1976

Eighth Lesson

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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 demand-
ed of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: 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, enquired 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 wor-
ship 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.

Sixth Lesson

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL Sans Day Carol

- 1 Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:
*And Mary bore Jesus 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!*
2. Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:
3. Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:
4. Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:
To all eternity.

Words Cornish trad

Music arr. John Rutter

Seventh Lesson

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.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Thanks be to God.

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 judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational Acclamation

Clergy We celebrate with joy your coming into our midst;

Women & girls we celebrate with hope your coming into our midst;
Men & boys we celebrate with peace your coming into our midst;
All for you have come to save us

Women & girls By your grace we recognize your presence in people everywhere;
Men & boys By your power you free us from all that stands in the way
of your coming kingdom;

Women & girls Through your strength our lives can proclaim joy and hope;
Men & boys Through your love we can work for peace and justice.

Clergy You are the source of our being

All You are the light of our lives

CAROL (Choir) In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo Let us our homage shew:
Our heart's joy reclineth *In praesepeio*;
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio, Alpha es et O!

3. *O patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!*
Deeply were we stained. *Per nostra crimina:*
But Thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia, O that we were there:

2. *O Jesu parvule*, I, yearn for thee alway.
Listen to my ditty, *O puer optime*;
Have pity on me, pity,
O princeps gloriae. Trahe me post te.

4. *Ubi sunt gaudia*, If that they be not there?
There are Angels singing *Nova cantica*;
There the bells are ringing
In Regis curia. O that we were there!

Words: Ancient German

Music: R.L.Pearsall 1795-1856 Arr. W.J.Westbrook 1831-1894

Fourth Lesson

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL O little town of Bethlehem

Recitative

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; Ye shall find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

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.

2. 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.

3. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Words from St.Luke 2 vv 11,12 & P.Brooks 1835-1893

Music: English trad. Arr. H. Walford Davies

Fifth Lesson

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, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. 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.

Congregational Cantic: The Magnificat

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

CAROL Cherry tree carol

Joseph was an old man
and an old man was he,
When he wedded Mary,
in the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked
through an orchard good,
Where was cherries and berries,
so red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary,
so meek and oh, so mild:
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph,
for I am with child.'

O then bespoke Joseph,
with words most unkind:
'Let him pluck thee a cherry
that brought thee with child.'

O then bespoke the baby,
within his mother's womb:
'Bow down then the tallest tree,
for my mother to have some.'

Then bowed down the highest tree
unto his mother's hand;
Then she cried, 'See, Joseph,
I have cherries at command.'

O then bespoke Joseph:<
'I have done Mary wrong;
But cheer up, my dearest,
and be ye not cast down.'

Then Mary plucked a cherry,
as red as any blood,
Then Mary she went homewards
all with her heavy load.

Words Trad.

Music Stephen Cleobury