

Christ Church, New Mill

Service of Readings and Carols



Sunday, December 17th 2017, 4.30pm.

Welcome to Christ Church, New Mill, and especially to this celebration of the Nativity of our Lord in words and music. You are invited to stand and join in the items marked "HYMN", and sit or kneel as appropriate for the other items. We hope you enjoy the service.

Before the service will be played Noel avec Variations (L.C. Daquin 1694-1772), during which the lights will be dimmed. Please remain seated as the choir sings:

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have ever-
lasting life.

Words: John 3:16. Music: J. Stainer (1840-1901)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(first verse sung by the choir)

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.

Please stand to sing:

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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

*Words: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-95) Music: H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76)
Descant Philip Ledger, 1937-2012*

Please be seated.

PRAYER *ending with the Lord's prayer:*

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.

READING 1: Isaiah 9 : 2, 6-7

Isaiah foretells the birth of Jesus.

CHOIR: Ding Dong Ding (*Piae Cantiones, 1582, arr. G.R.Woodward, 1848-1934*)

Ding-dong ding! Ding-a-dong-a ding!
Ding dong, ding dong, ding-a-dong 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, (*from the Virgin Mary*)

In a stable, ('tis no fable)

Christus natus hodie. (*Christ is born today*)

HYMN:

Please stand to sing

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

Latin, tr. J.M. Neale

Please sit.

READING 2: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHOIR: There is no rose. (*Words 15th century, Music by John Joubert (b. 1927)*)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space. Res Miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three. Pares forma.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth. Transeamus

(Alleluia : Praise the Lord. Res miranda : Wonderful thing. Pares forma: of the same form. Transeamus: Let us go. In earlier times, services were conducted entirely in Latin, not spoken by the people generally. Many carols dating from this period are a mixture of Latin and English - the text written in English was embellished with quotations from the scholastic Latin)

READING 3: Matthew 1: 18-23

Matthew's account of the birth of Christ

CHOIR: Myn Lyking *(Words 15th C., Music by R.R. Terry 1865-1938)*

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing.
She lulled a lyttel childe, a swete Lording.

*Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweetling.
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.*

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;
Of alle lordis he is Lord, of alle kynges Kyng.

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth.
All that were in heuenly blisse they made mickle mirth.

Aungels bright sang their song to that chylde,
Blyssid be thou and so be sche so meke and so milde.

HYMN

Please stand to sing

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
its wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say--
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

*Words: Basque carol;
trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

Please sit

READING 4 Luke 2: 1, 3-7

St Luke's description of the birth of Christ

CHOIR: In the bleak midwinter (*Words C. Rosseti; Music: Harold Darke 1888-1976*)

In the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter 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 mid-winter 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.

Please stand to sing

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 wondering love.

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 Immanuel!

*(Words P. Brooks 1835-93; Music trad. Arr. R.V Williams, 1872-1958. Descant
Thomas Armstrong 1898-1994)*

Please sit.

READING 5:

Mary's song (by Michelle Lowndes)

CHOIR: O little one sweet (*Words tr. from 16th century German by H. Keyte & A. Parrott. Music 17th century, harmonised by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750*)

O little one sweet, O little one mild!

READING 6: Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds visit the baby Jesus.

CHOIR: Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?

(French traditional carol. Words tr. A.b. Ramsay & D. Willcocks. Music arr. David Willcocks 1919 - 2015)

Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes.

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

Please stand to sing

HYMN:

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 swaddling 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;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'**

(Words N. Tate 1652-1715. Music from Este's Psalter, 1592)

Please sit

READING 7: Matthew 2:1-11

The Wise Men travel to see Jesus

CHOIR: We three kings *(John Henry Hopkins, 1820-91)*

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain

Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God Most High.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia!, Alleluia!,
Earth to Heaven replies.

READING 8: The meaning of Christmas (anon.)

CHOIR: Wings of Angels (*Words: Christopher Deering, Music: James W. Morgan, b. 1952*)

Sleep softly on the wings of angels,
Somewhere safe and somewhere calm.
Sleep softly on the wings of angels,
Peace at last and free from harm.

Sleep softly on the wings of evening
Dreaming gently of the dawn,
Watch the spiral of the stars above you
Touch the rose without thorn.

Sing softly, Sing softly,
Sing today as the angels would sing.

READING 9: John 1:1-14

St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

Please stand to sing

HYMN: *(during which a collection will be taken):*

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 this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing:

(Words & melody by J.F. Wade 1711-86 . Descant by Philip Ledger 1937-2012)

Please remain standing for a final prayer and benediction.

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 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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

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,
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.'

(Words by C. Wesley 1707-88; Music by Mendelssohn 1809-47)

Please sit. The choir sings a final benediction, and the service ends with the playing of the Introduction & Toccata from Dieu parmi nous (God with us), the final section of La Nativité du Seigneur (The birth of our saviour) by Olivier Messiaen 1908-92. Subtitled “the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. My soul doth magnify the Lord”, this is Messiaen’s depiction of the Incarnation.

We hope you have enjoyed the service, and we wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS 2017

Christmas Eve:

3.00pm Christingle workshop

4.00pm Christingle service

11.15pm Midnight Mass, with carols

Christmas Day: 10.00am Carols and Communion

Sunday 31st December 10.00am Joint Communion

ALL WELCOME

