

# *St Mary Newmarket*



## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

*Sunday 17 December 2023*

*Please stand to join in the singing of the carols but remain seated  
for the lessons and choir pieces unless directed otherwise*

## Welcome

*Please stand when the bell rings*

### Carol

### Once in Royal David's City

#### 1. SOLO

*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. CHOIR ONLY

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

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)*

*Please remain standing for*

### **The Bidding Prayer**

*and*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*We pray together*

**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.**

*Please sit*

Choir

People, look East

*Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

*Music: Traditional Besançon melody*

First Lesson

*Isaiah 9.2,6-7*

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Saviour

Carol

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

1.

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,*

*Christ, the new-born King.*

*Come and worship,*

*worship Christ, the new-born King.*

2.

Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:

*Refrain*

3.

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:

*Refrain*

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

Second Lesson

*Luke 1.26-28*

The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary

Choir

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

*Words: S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Music: Old Basque Carol arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)*

Third Lesson

*Luke 2.1-7*

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

**Carol**

**O little town of Bethlehem**

1.

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.

2.

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.

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.

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.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

Fourth Lesson  
*Luke 2.8-14*

The angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds

## **Carol**

### **While shepherds watched their flocks**

1.  
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 mind);  
'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:

4.  
'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing 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;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

*Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

## Fifth Lesson

*Luke 2: 15-20*

The shepherds go to the manger

## Carol

### Away in a manger

1.

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.

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 for heaven, to live with thee there.

*William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*



Choir

Gaudete  
*from Piaae Cantiones, 1582*

*Please stand for the Sixth lesson*

Sixth Lesson: St John unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation  
*John 1:1-14*

**Carol**

**O Come all ye Faithful**

1.

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:

*Refrain*

3.

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

*Refrain*

4.

Child, for us sinners, poor and in a manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

*Refrain*

5.  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest':

*Refrain*

*Adeste fideles: tr. F Oakeley, W T Brooke et al.*

*Please remain standing*

## **The Collect for Christmas Eve**

*and*

## **The Blessing**

## **Carol**

## **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

1.  
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.  
*Refrain*

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.

*Refrain*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

***Thank you for joining in our service today***

***You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments***

# Worship with us this Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

*11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity*



CHRISTMAS DAY

*9.45am Sung Mass for Christmas Morning*

**All are welcome**

ST MARY'S CHOIR

*Thursday evenings: 7.00pm-8.00pm*

*Sunday mornings: 9.00am-11.00am*

New members of all ages and abilities are welcome  
at any time as regular or occasional singers.

For more details, email: [choir@stmarysnewmarket.org.uk](mailto:choir@stmarysnewmarket.org.uk)

*Visit our website to keep up to date with all our  
regular services and events*



[stmarysnewmarket.org.uk](http://stmarysnewmarket.org.uk)