

All Saints Community Carol Service, 24th December, 5.00pm, 2020

Welcome and prayer

First reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol: 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 the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King
And peace to men on earth

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
Oh, come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Immanuel!

Phillips Brooks, 1877

Second reading: Luke 1:26-28

Carol: O Come, o come Immanuel

1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Chorus:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Chorus

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Chorus

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Chorus

5 O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.
Chorus

Words: J.M. Neale (1851)

Third reading: Matthew 1:18-24

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.
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 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.

C.F. Alexander (1818-1895)

Fourth reading: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild

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Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, oh, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Fifth reading: Luke 2:8-14

Carol: 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 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 the 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!

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.
Risen with healing in His wings,
Light and life to all He brings,
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

George Whitfield (1739)

Sixth reading: Luke 2:15-20

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

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 swathing bands
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke 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 to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from high from
highest heaven
Begin and never cease!'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Seventh reading: Matthew 2:10-12

Carol: We three kings of orient are

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

Oh, 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

Oh, star of wonder.....

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity high;

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prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Oh, star of wonder....

Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Oh, star of wonder.....

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

John H. Hopkins, United Methodist
Hymnal, 1989

Final words and the Lord's prayer,
together

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power and
the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps:
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ child
bring our hearts' oblations:
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

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, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore him, (Repeat x 3)
Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade, translator:
Frederick Oakeley (1841)

Blessing