



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

**in the
Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens
and via YouTube**

at 6 p.m.

Thursday 10th December

2020

We warmly welcome you to the Christmas Carol Service for the two Livery Companies.

This time last year we can none of us have imagined what would lie before us. Our lives, and all that is associated with them, have been impacted, and nearly always for the worse. Individually, people have had to negotiate difficulties that have often been unique to them. Cruelly, just when we need support, people can find themselves cut off and isolated.

Our faith has never aimed to brush problems under the carpet. The Old Testament prophets wrote in times that were politically, socially and economically difficult- humiliation and suffering beset their people. Yet, however grim the immediate landscape was, they sought to lift peoples' eyes to the horizon, where they perceived light- the light of a God that would, in time, break through with love and power, focused on the form of a Christ, from who would flow infinite hope. They sought to give people new confidence, and to enable them to stand tall again.

We have often speeded through the words of prophecy at Christmas to get to the meat of the the story of the birth of Christ. However this year, we can see more clearly, that hope is all the more precious when the immediate landscape is dark.

We invite you to follow these old stories, in words and music, and, whilst we may not be able to sing, to let our spirits rise with the sentiments and understandings expressed through the centuries.

The story of the Nativity is the story of God breaking through, despite the very imperfect and makeshift settings of a manger. We trust God may break through these makeshift communications in place this year, and bring to us all peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Andrew Keep
Chaplain

Carol 1: Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city, [solo]
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, [choir]
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.

Words: C F Alexander, Music: H J Gauntlett and A H Mann

The Bidding Prayer

First Lesson

Genesis 22:15-19 *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

read by: The Sheriff.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Carol 2: Es ist ein Ros'entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
Aus einer Wurzel zart
Wie uns die Alten sungen
Von Jesse kam die Art

Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
Mitten im kalten Winter
Wohl zu der halben Nacht

Das Röslein, das ich meine
Davon Jesaia sagt
Hat uns gebracht alleine
Marie, die reine Magd
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
Hat sie ein Kind geboren
Wohl zuder halven nacht

Das Blümelein, so kleine, ^{ln21}
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis.
Wahr Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight. (Winkworth trans)

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
Through God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night. (Winkworth trans)

This Flow'r whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load. (Spaeth & Mattes trans)

Michael Praetorius and Donald Cashmore

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6,7 *The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

read by: The Immediate Past Prime Warden

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Carol 3: Unto us is born a son

Unto us is born a son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low, [choir ladies' voices]
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their Owner know
Becradled in the manger,
Becradled in the manger.

O and A and A and O,
Cum canitbus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

Words: Latin 15th C, Music: Puer nobis

Third Lesson

Luke 1: 26-33 *The Angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

read by: The Master Pattenmaker

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [b] the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Carol 4: 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 thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Words: Philip Brooks, Music: Forest Green

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7 *St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

read by: A Church Warden

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Carol 5- Silent night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
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 Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

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

Words: Josef Mohr, Music: Franz Gruber

Carol 6: While shepherds watched

While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"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."

"All glory be to
God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease!"

Words: Nahum Tate, Music: Winchester Old

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14, 16-17 *St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

read by: The Chaplain

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol 7: Hark the herald

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, Music: Mendelssohn

Collect and Blessing

Carol 8: 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.

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

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: Latin 18th C, Music: J F Wade

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