

Christmas Day 2021

Welcome to everyone tonight in church and to those joining our livestreams via our Facebook pages.

***Please note, you must now wear a face-covering in church.
Please remember that not everyone will want to be physically close to others and respect their preferences.***

ENTRANCE CAROL

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let earth its songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

BEFORE THE GOSPEL

○ 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. ○ 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 wond'ring love.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
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.

OFFERTORY CAROL

See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the gentle Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

*Hail that ever blessed morn,
hail redemption's happy dawn,
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in heights sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today?

Wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

4. 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love is thine,
thus to come from highest bliss,
down to such a world as this!

6. Virgin Mother, Mary blest,
by the joys that fill thy breast,
pray for us, that we may prove
worthy of the Saviour's love.

DURING COMMUNION

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him praise,
the Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
his love all loves exceeding:
nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the saviour comes,
the babe, the son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let every heart enthrone him:
Raise, raise your songs on high
while Mary sings a lullaby,
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

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 in the hay.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

FINAL CAROL

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 th'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 th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emanuel.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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.

***We hope that you have enjoyed sharing our
Christmas celebrations this morning.
Tomorrow is St Stephen's Day (Sunday 26th December).
There is one, joint service, at 10am, at St Thomas'.
You would be very welcome to join us!***