

Christmas Eve 2021

Midnight Mass

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

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, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child who seemed so helpless
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 round,
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.

BEFORE THE GOSPEL

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth,
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the
song,
which now the angels sing.

OFFERTORY CAROL

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.

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 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.

DURING COMMUNION

Silent night, holy night!
Heaven is near, earth is bright.
Angel songs are heard above,
as the Child of peace and love
sleeps in Mary's arms,
sleeps in Mary's arms.

Silent night, holy night!
Skies are clear, stars are bright,
now the shepherds wend their way,

homage to this Child to pay:
He is Christ the Lord,
He is Christ the Lord.

Silent night, holy night!
Christ is here, all is light,
shadows of the past are gone
with the advent of the Son,
born to save us all,
born to save us all.

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 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 to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
being and never cease.'

FINAL CAROL

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:

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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: