

**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:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***



*Words: Charles Wesley and others  
Tune: MENDELSSOHN Felix Mendelssohn*

*We keep a short period of silence*

*Organ*      *Finale from the 6th Symphony by C-M Widor*  
*Voluntary*

***We wish you a very Happy Christmas.***

*'Bring us hope, bring us love, bring us peace and joy from above,  
bring us light, turn our night into day  
Hope to replace our hopelessness, love to refill our emptiness,  
peace in the midst of our distress,  
oh how we need your Joy!'*

CCL licence number: 209446

## **St. Luke's Church Maidenhead**

### **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**



**Sunday 19th December 2021**

**6.00 pm**

Welcome to our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

This traditional service is one of great beauty in which we explore again the mystery of God becoming human for us in Jesus. Beginning with the Creation story, it leads us in words and music to the glory of St John's theological explanation of Jesus coming among us.

As the words and music come together, each enriching the other, we pray that our own celebration of Christmas may be deepened as we are caught up in the story of God's love which unfolds before us in our worship this evening.

The congregation is invited to stand to sing carols (please wear a face covering to sing) and to sit for the choir music and readings. The service will begin in near darkness.

A collection will be taken during the penultimate Carol, which this year will support the work of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.

**Please do take this order of service away with you.**

**We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**

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**Services here at Christmas:**

Christmas Eve: 4.00 pm	Candlelit Crib service
10.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day: 10.00 am	Christmas Communion

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**Organ music before the service**

1st movement from the Trio Sonata no.4 in E minor by Bach

Our organist today is George Baldwin,  
an organ scholar at Eton College

Please remain standing for:

**Ninth Lesson**      The Incarnation of the Word of God, John 1. 1-14  
read by the Revd. Canon Terrie Robinson



**The Collect of Christmas Eve,**

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**      The Revd. Sally Lynch, Vicar.

**Carol**

**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.***

**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:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***

*Eighth Lesson* The magi are led by the star to Jesus, Matthew 2. 1-12  
*read by Becky Sharma*

*Choir* Nativity Carol, *John Rutter*

*Carol*

**The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

**They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Nowell...***

*Choir only* And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. ***Nowell...***

**This star drew nigh to the north-west:  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Nowell...***

*Choir only* Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. ***Nowell...***

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought. *Nowell...***

*English traditional*

*Choir* Give us hope, *Ruth Elaine Schram*

*The Bidding*

*ending with,*

**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.****

*Carol*

*Choir only*

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.

*Please stand to sing*



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.

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.

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

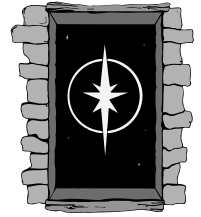
Words: Mrs.C.F. Alexander  
 Tune: IRBY H.J. Gauntlett,

First Lesson The Fall, Genesis 3. 8-15  
 read by Jeanette Lock

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 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.

Words: Phillips Brooks  
 Tune: FOREST GREEN English traditional



Seventh Lesson The shepherds go the manger, Luke 2. 8-16  
 read by Arthur Little

Carol 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;  
 good will henceforth from heaven to men  
 begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652—1715)

**What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -  
give my heart.**

*Words Christina Rossetti / Music Holst*

*Sixth Lesson* The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2. 1-7  
*read by Anne Child*

*Choir* Christmas Night, *John Rutter*

*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 to-night.**

**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.**

*Choir only* 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 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, ...**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest: O come, ...**

*Words: Latin 18th century tr. Frederick Oakeley and others  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES Melody J.F.Wade*

*Second Lesson* The Promise to Abraham, Genesis 22. 15-18  
*read by Natasha or Charlotte Sloan*

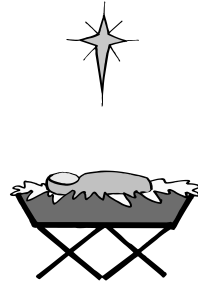
*Third Lesson* The prophecy of the Messiah's birth, Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7  
*read by Simon Bader*

*Carol*

**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, goodwill to men  
From heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.**

**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.**

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.



For lo! the days are hastening on,  
 By prophet bards foretold,  
 When with the ever-circling years,  
 Shall come 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.

Words: E.H. Sears

Tune: NOEL English traditional adapted by Arthur Sullivan

*Fourth Lesson* The prophecy of the Messiah's kingdom of peace,  
 Isaiah 11. 1-4a, 6-9, read by Kate Taylor

*Carol*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
 his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
 "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
 most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
 all generations laud and honour thee,  
 thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
 most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
 "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
 "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
 Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
 in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
 and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
 "Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Words: Basque carol; trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Gabriel's Message

*Fifth Lesson*

The Annunciation to Mary, Luke 1. 26-38  
 read by Malcolm Moulton

*Choir*

Mary, did you know, Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

*Carol*

In the bleak mid-winter  
 frosty wind made moan,  
 earth stood hard as iron,  
 water like a stone:  
 snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
 snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid-winter,  
 long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
 nor earth sustain;  
 heaven and earth shall flee away  
 when he comes to reign:  
 in the bleak mid-winter  
 a stable-place sufficed  
 the Lord God almighty,  
 Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
 worship night and day,  
 a breast full of milk,  
 and a manger full of hay:  
 enough for him, whom angels  
 fall down before,  
 the ox and ass and camel  
 which adore.