

# **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**



**St John the Baptist  
Coln St Aldwyns**

**18 December 2016**

**INTROIT** *(sung by the choir as the congregation assembles)*

Boar's Head Carol; Coventry Carol; The year turns round again

**CAROL**

Once in royal David's city *sung by a choir member*  
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 *sung by the 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 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.**

## WELCOME & BIDDING PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

## CHOIR

Of the Father's heart begotten

## FIRST READING

Genesis 3. 8-15 *read by Ray Michael*

## CHOIR

Adam lay ybounden

## 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, good will 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.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,

Look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing.  
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.

#### SECOND READING

Isaiah 9. 2-7 *read by Susie Hicks Beach*

#### CHOIR

Joy to the world; Away in a manger

#### THIRD READING

Isaiah 53. 2-12 *read by Chris Jackson*

#### CHOIR

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

#### CAROL

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as 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 looked 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, nowell ...  
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, nowell ...

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, nowell ...

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, nowell ...

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

#### FOURTH READING

Matthew 1. 18-23 *read by Adrian Goodman*

#### CHOIR

O sleep, thou heaven-born treasure, thou

#### CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter, 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

#### FIFTH READING

Luke 2. 1-16 *read by Liz Partington*

## 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.’

## SIXTH READING

Matthew 2. 1-11 *read by Hugh Poole-Warren*

## CAROL

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 first saw 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;  
radiance beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **CHOIR**

Good Christians all, rejoice.

## **SEVENTH READING**

John 1. 1-14 *read by John Partington*

## **REFLECTION & PRAYER**

*John Partington*

## **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:  
O come, let us adore him ...

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
O come, let us adore him ...

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 ...

## **BLESSING**

## **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 with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing ...  
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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born king.

*You are warmly welcome to join us now for refreshments in  
Nigel & Angie's Barn. We offer them our grateful thanks.*



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**in Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop & Quenington**

### **Christmas Eve**

4.00 pm	Crib Service	Quenington
11.15 pm	Midnight Communion	Quenington

### **Christmas Day**

9.30 am	Holy Communion <i>in traditional language</i>	Hatherop
11.00 am	Family Communion	Coln St Aldwyns

**COME AND WORSHIP WITH US !**

---