

A Service of Lessons & Carols



9am Sunday 19th December 2021
St Barnabas, Orange East

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

*This service proceeds with a minimum of comment or announcement.
Please note directions in this booklet as to when to stand, be seated, etc.*

*May this service be a profound commemoration and joyous celebration
of our wonder that the eternal Son of God should take on human flesh
and live among us so that we might be reconciled to God.*

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE: Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of the Lord's great love for ever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm for ever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
'I will establish your line for ever and make your throne firm
through all generations.'"

HYMN: *ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY*

(First verse: ladies 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.

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 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 gather round.

Cecil Alexander (1818-95)

(Please be seated)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST BIBLE READING: Genesis 3:8-19

Adam and Eve are punished for their rebellion against God, and excluded from his presence.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The snake deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the snake,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said,

"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labour you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said,

"Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.
It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are and to dust you will return."

HYMN: *JOY TO THE WORLD*

(Please stand)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every 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 men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

(Please be seated)

SECOND BIBLE READING: 2 Samuel 7:8-13

God promises David that a descendant of his will reign over God's people forever.

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.

“And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.’”

THIRD BIBLE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet Isaiah announces in advance the coming of the Saviour.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.
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 Counsellor, 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.

HYMN: *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*

(Please stand)

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!

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.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
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.

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, Immanuel!

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

(Please be seated)

FOURTH BIBLE READING: Matthew 1:18-25

The angel of the Lord tells Joseph that Mary will give birth to a child who will save his people from their sins.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

FIFTH BIBLE READING: Luke 2:1-7

The birth of the Saviour.

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.

HYMN: SILENT NIGHT

(Please stand)

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!
Glory streams 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 from your holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

(Please be seated)

SIXTH BIBLE READING: Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds are told of the birth of the Messiah and go to Bethlehem to see him.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN: *O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*

(Please stand)

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!

(Please be seated)

SEVENTH BIBLE READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Wise men are led by a star to Jesus and worship Him.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

HYMN: AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

(Please stand)

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

William Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

(Please be seated)

EIGHTH BIBLE READING: John 1:1-14

The incarnation explained by the Apostle John.

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.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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 recognise 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.

NINTH BIBLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7

Christ brings us the blessings of adoption as children of God.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

HYMN: JOY HAS DAWNED UPON THE WORLD

(Please stand)

Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation—
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vul'n'able and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story.
Gold—a King is born today;
Incense—God is with us;
Myrrh—His death will make a way;
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
Given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man,
Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Saviour! What a Friend!
What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of hist'ry.

(Repeat last four lines)

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(Please remain standing)

COLLECTS

Leader: Eternal God, from whom all holy desires, all good purposes, and all just works proceed: give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and that free from the fear of any enemies we may pass our time in trust and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

All: **Lord God, you make us glad
with the yearly remembrance of the birth of
your only son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to receive him joyfully as our redeemer,
so that we may with sure confidence
stand before him, when he shall come
to be our judge;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May Christ the sun of righteousness shine on you and make you ready to meet him when he comes again in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN: *HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you 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!”*

(Continued overleaf)

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 men to dwell
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Hail, the heav'n-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!"*

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**