

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2020

### O little town of Bethlehem (526)

*Philips Brooks (1835–1893)*

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 giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may 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 to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 1:1-14

*The Mystery of the Incarnation*

### Of the Father's Love Begotten (508)

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans.*

*John Mason Neale, alt.*

Of the Father's heart begotten  
ere the worlds began to be  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he is the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, and have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

At His Word they were created  
he commanded it was done;  
heav'n and earth and depths of ocean,  
in their threefold order one,  
all that grows beneath the shining,  
of the light of moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;  
angel hosts his praises sing!  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring,,  
evermore and evermore

This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord;  
whom the writings of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now He shines, the long expected,  
let our songs declare his worth,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be:  
honour, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!

## **CHOIR: Infant Holy:**

*Edmund Rubbra (1901-86)*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Genesis 3:1-20

*The sin of Adam*

## **CHOIR: Adam lay ybounden**

*Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Isaiah 11:1-4, 10

*A shoot will spring from the stock of Jesse*

## **Silent Night (614)**

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

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:  
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.

4<sup>th</sup> Reading: Luke 1:26-28

*The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary*

## **The Angel Gabriel (646)**

*Sabine Baring-Gould*

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 known 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 pleases God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy  
name.'

Most highly favoured lady! *Gloria!*

'And so,' she said, 'how happy I shall be!  
All generations will remember me;  
for God has kept his promises to Israel.'  
Most highly favoured lady!

*Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel - the Christ - was born  
in Bethlehem, upon that Christmas morn.  
and Christian folk throughout the world will  
ever say,

'Most highly favoured lady!' *Gloria!*

## **CHOIR: Ave Maria: Elgar (1857-1934)**

5<sup>th</sup> Reading: Mark 1:1-13

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus*

## **CHOIR: Puer nobis nascitur**

*(Moosbury Gradual 1355-60)*

## **See Amid the Winter Snow (601)**

*Edward Caswall*

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

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

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

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep

on the lonely mountain steep?

*Hail...*

'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."

*Hail...*

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

*Hail...*

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

*Hail...*

6<sup>th</sup> Reading: Philippeans 4:4-8

### **Ding dong, merrily on high (238)**

*George Ratcliffe Woodward*

Ding dong! Merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.

*Gloria! ...*

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
and i-o, i-o, i-o,  
by priest and people sungen.

*Gloria! ...*

Pray you dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.

*Gloria! ...*

Prayer and Blessing

### **O come, all ye faithful (501)**

*John Francis Wade*

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, ...*

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, ...*

hrsLB	hrsLF	Plan of seats at all Christmas Masses		hrsRF	hrsRB
hrsLS	hrsLM	hrsRM	hrsRS		
hrsLS1	hrsLM1	hrsRM1	hrsRS1		
hrsLS2	hrsLM2	hrsRM2	hrsRS2		
hrsLS3	hrsLM3	hrsRM3	hrsRS3		
hrsLS4	hrsLM4	hrsRM4	hrsRS4		
hrsLS5	hrsLM5	hrsRM5	hrsRS5		
hrsLS6	hrsLM6	hrsRM6	hrsRS6		
hrsLS7	hrsLM7	hrsRM7	hrsRS7		
hrsLS8	hrsLM8	hrsRM8	hrsRS8		
hrsLS9	hrsLM9	hrsRM9	hrsRS9		
hrsLS10	hrsLM10	hrsRM10	hrsRS10		

We would like to thank our parish choir for having prepared our Christmas carol service.

We are hoping that this service will encourage us to sing at home, both when it is live-streamed and then throughout the twelve days of Christmas.

We would like to wish every parishioner family, guests and visitors a joyful, safe and healthy Christmas, hoping to pray with you at Mass and throughout the whole Christmas period.

Fr Bart and Fr Peter

*May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy.*