

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.

1st 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)

2nd Reading: Genesis 3:1-20

The sin of Adam

CHOIR: Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

3rd 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.

4th 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)

5th 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...

6th 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.*