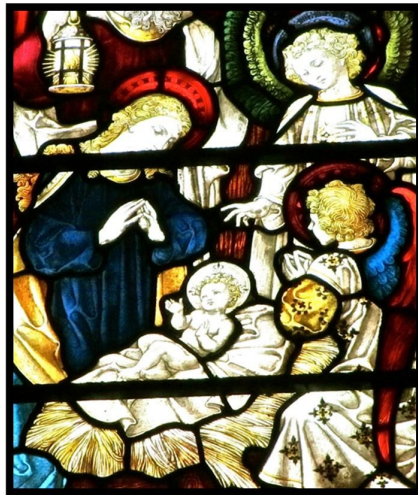


# Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

‘The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory’



21st December 2025

6.00pm

**Welcome to St Andrew's**  
**May God's peace be with you**

Welcome to this special service as we celebrate once more in words from scripture and in music, the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The readings, music and words tonight reflect on the presence of God in our midst, allowing all our senses to draw us deeper into the mystery of this holy season.

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it’

*The service sheet gives directions on when to stand or kneel, but please feel free to remain sitting if you prefer.*

*Toilets are available through the arch beside the main entrance, accessible and baby-changing facilities are available.*

*If you need any assistance when in church, please attract the attention of one of our stewards who would be happy to help you.*

*If you find today's service special and would appreciate a conversation about the Christian faith, do have a word with one of the clergy.*

**Organ Prelude:** In dulci jubilo BWV 729 J S Bach

## Carol

*The choir alone sings verse 1 and 2*

*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*

**All      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 that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high,  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

*Words: C.F.Alexander (1818-1895)*

*Music: H.J.Gauntlett arr. A.H.Mann (1850-1929)*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please remain standing*

**BIDDING PRAYER** The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey, Rector

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our town of Rugby and diocese of Coventry.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done,  
In earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that 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.**

*Please sit*

## The First Lesson: The Fall

And the man and the woman heard the voice of  
the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day:  
and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence  
of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him,  
Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was  
afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast  
thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that  
thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be  
with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that  
thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent be-  
guiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou  
hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above  
every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and  
dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Thanks be to God

Genesis 3:8-1

### **Choir** - *Adam lay ybounden*

*Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple.  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden  
Written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady  
Abeen heavene queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Deo gracias*

*Words: anon. 15th Century  
Music: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

*Please stand*

## **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 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  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

*Words: J. Mohr. Translated D. Willcocks  
Tune: F. Gruber arranged by D. Cashmore*

*Please sit*

## **The Second Lesson: The Prophecy of the Messiah's birth**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

*Isaiah 9: 2,6-7*

### **Choir - A virgin most pure**

*A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell,  
Hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell,  
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,  
Which Adam's transgression hath wrapped us in:  
Aye and therefore be merry, rejoice and be you merry,  
Set sorrows aside;  
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this tide.*

*In Bethlehem Jewry a city there was,  
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,  
And there to be taxed with many one more,  
For Caesar commanded the same should be so:  
Aye and therefore be merry...*



*But when they had entered the city so fair,  
A number of people so mighty was there,  
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,  
Could find in the inn there no lodging at all:  
Aye and therefore be merry...*

*Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,  
Where horses and asses they used for to tie;  
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn:  
But against the next morning our Saviour was born:  
Aye and therefore be merry...*

*Words and Music: English Traditional  
Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

### **The Third Lesson:** The angel Gabriel greets Mary

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God

*Luke 1:26-38*

*Please stand*

## **Carol**

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
his wings of drifted snow his eyes as flame,  
'All hail!' said he 'thou lowly 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 sears 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!***

*Words: Basque traditional carol paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould  
Music: Basque traditional arranged by Charles Pettman*

*Please sit*

## **The Fourth Lesson: St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

*Luke 2:1-7*

*Please stand*

### **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 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 wond'ring love.**

*Choir*

How silently, how silently,  
The wond'rous gift is giv'n!  
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 Emmanuel**

*Words: Phillips Brookes (1835-1893)*

*Music: English traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Descant: Sir Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*

*Please sit*

## **Choir - In the bleak mid-winter**

*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, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
heav'n 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.*

*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 (1830-1894)*

*Music: G. Holst (1874-1934)*

*Please remain seated to sing*

## **Carol**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

*Choir and children (if they would like to) only*

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

*Words: Anon (19th Century American)*

*Music: Melody by W J Kirkpatrick arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## **The Fifth Lesson:** The shepherds go to the manger

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

*Luke 2:1-7*

## **Choir - Sir Christemas**

*Nowell, nowell.  
Who is there that singeth so,  
I am here, Sir Christèmas.  
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!  
Welcome to all, both more and less!  
Come near, come near, come near,  
Nowell, nowell.*

*Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,  
Tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young,  
Which causeth you to sing:  
Nowell, nowell.*

*Christ is now born of a pure maid,  
Born of a pure maid;  
In an ox-stall he is laid,  
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:  
Nowell, nowell.*

*Buvez bien, buvez bien  
Par toute la compagnie.  
Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully  
Nowell, nowell*

*Words: Anon c. 1500  
Music: William Mathias (b. 1934)*

*Please stand*

## **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 heav'nly 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;  
Goodwill hence-forth from heav'n to men  
Begin and never cease.**

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: Este's Psalter (1592)*

*Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please sit*

**The Sixth Lesson:** The wise men led by the star to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the  
days of Herod the king, behold, there came wisemen



from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, called the wise men, and enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

*Matthew 2:1-11*

## **Choir - Star Carol**

*Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,  
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
See his star shining bright  
In the sky this Christmas night!  
Follow me joyfully;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

*Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"  
See his star.....*

*See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.  
See his star.....*

*Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
See his star.....*

*Words and music: John Rutter*

***Please stand***

**Carol** *during which a collection will be taken. You may also give by using the QR code at the back of this order of service.*

**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 th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb;  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel,  
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,  
Ris'n 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 (1707-88)*

*Music: F Mendelssohn (1809-47)*

*Verse 3 arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*Please remain standing*

## **The Seventh Lesson:**

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*John 1:1-14*

For the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

## 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 with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
    *O come, let us adore him ....***

**Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:  
    *O come, let us adore him ....***

**Sing choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
    **O come, let us adore him ....****

*Words & melody: J.F. Wade (c. 1711-1786)  
Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## **Prayer and Blessing Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey**

When the song of the angels is stilled  
when the star in the sky is gone  
when the kings and princes are home  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks  
the work of Christmas begins:  
    to find the lost  
    to heal the broken  
    to feed the hungry  
    to release the prisoner  
    to rebuild the nations  
    to bring peace among the people  
    to make music in the heart.

*'The Work of Christmas', Howard Thurman (Harper & Row, 1973)*

So may Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into  
one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his peace  
and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the  
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and  
remain with you always.

**All    Amen.**

## **Organ Voluntary:** Fanfare *William Mathias*

If you feel you might want to get involved in the choir, in ringing bells, or arranging flowers or if you just want to know more about life at St. Andrew's church, please do get in touch.

If you have felt something special in this service and want to talk about faith, have a chat with one of the clergy or ministers.

*A collection plate is available at the back of church or  
this link will allow you to give to St Andrew's online:*



**Common Worship – Services and Prayers for the Church of England,**  
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Registered charity number: 1160223, CCLI number: 193411



***Wishing you and those you love  
a blessed, holy  
and joyful Christmas.***

Do join us for our other services this  
Christmas.

**Tuesday 23rd**

4pm Christingle

**Christmas Eve**

4pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

10.30am Festal Eucharist