

University Church

‘Carols on the High’

***In partnership with the
Oxford High Street Association***

Sunday 4 December 2022

18.00

Please take this order of service home with you

Welcome to the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. We are delighted that you have joined us today. This leaflet will guide you through the carol service.

Services of lessons and carols involve the weaving together of song and spoken word to carry us through the story of the Incarnation; from a world in darkness that longs for light and peace, to the familiar tale of shepherds and Magi that surrounds the event of Christ's birth.

With thanks to James Brown and the Cherwell Singers for their music tonight. The Choir items at tonight's service are included in a concert entitled "A French Christmas" given by the Cherwell Singers on Sunday 11th December at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Oxford. Tickets: www.cherwellsingers.org

We are delighted to be working in partnership with our neighbours in the Oxford High Street Association and we are grateful to Jeremy Mogford and the team for providing refreshments for the OHSA members at Quod after the service.

During the service a collection will be taken towards the work of a local charitable cause. Please give generously.

Candles will be lit shortly before the start of the service. Please take care once your candle is lit.

INFORMATION ABOUT ST MARY'S

The University Church is a Christian church within the Church of England and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths, and those of little or no faith. If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter about events and services at St Mary's, sign up at: www.universitychurch.ox.ac.uk/content/keeping-touch.

Toilets, including a disabled toilet and baby change, are situated at the back of Church behind the glass brick wall. Entry is on the right-hand side as you look at the glass brick wall, near to the font.

To enable our worship to be uninterrupted, please ensure all mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off before and during the service. You are kindly requested to refrain from making any audio or visual recording of any part of this service without the written permission of the Vicar.



An induction loop is available in the nave area for those who are hard of hearing. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.



Large print copies are available. Please ask the stewards.

Before the service, the organist plays as the congregation gather.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Please stand



Solo 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.

All **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,
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.**

Words: Cecil F Alexander (1818-1895)
Tune: IRBY, H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876), revised. NEH 34

Please sit

WELCOME

The Revd Dr William Lamb

CHOIR

People look East - Besancon carol arr. Barry Ferguson

READING

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Isaiah proclaims the birth of the Prince of Peace

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

Please stand



**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, 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 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 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 (1707-1788), George Whitfield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1726-1790)
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847). NEH 26

Please sit

POEM

Last Minute Christmas Shopping by Linda J. Doucett

'Twas the eve before Christmas.
I left it too late.
The shelves are all bare.
Oh, why did I wait?

I swore I'd shop early,
I clearly remember,
And be done with it all
By the first of December.

But now here I am
With picked-over stock.
The boxes are crumpled
On the Marvel knockoffs.

Sweaters too big,
Slippers too small.
The pushing the grabbing,
Get me out of this mall.

I will stop at the corner shop
And purchase a card
And fill it with money.
Why make life hard?

It always fits
And suits everyone's taste.
No need to wrap it.
That's just a waste.

But should you not like it,
Dear, have no fear,
If you'd like to return it,
My pocket's right here.

CHOIR

Angels from the realms of glory
- traditional French melody arr. Louis Halsey

READING

Luke 1.26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

CHOIR

Noel- Eustache du Caurroy (1549-1609)

Noel, noel.
Rise up from your bed,
Adorned like a new sun.

Rend the heavens and come down,
Angel of Great Counsel.
Child, but God-Man,
Son of the Most High who bears
Your great princely authority
Upon your strong shoulder.

Noel, Noel.

POEM

How the Light Comes by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know is
that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand, the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

CAROL

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 heaven.
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: Phillip Brooks (1835-1893)

Tune: FOREST GREEN, English traditional melody. NEH 32

Please sit

READING

Luke 2.1-7

The Blessed Virgin Mary gives birth

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CHOIR

Away in a Manger

traditional Normandy tune arr. Reginald Jacques.

PRAYERS

Please kneel

Minister Let us pray.

Father, your Son Jesus was Love come down.
He knew how it felt to experience the ups and downs of life
and the vulnerability of being human.
We pray for all who are vulnerable or find themselves in difficult
circumstances; that in you they would find comfort and security.
God of grace and truth:

All **hear our prayer.**

There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn.
We pray for those who are homeless, for those who sleep out on
the streets of this City and all who live in poverty.
Inspire us to work together as a community to show your love to
others through compassion, generosity and practical action.
God of grace and truth:

All **hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
We pray for those who work for peace and justice in the world and
pray for world leaders and all who have influence over the lives of
others; that they would use their power wisely for a better and
fairer world for all.
God of grace and truth:

All **hear our prayer.**

Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
We pray for all who are working this Christmas to bring light, hope
and joy to others, and for their families.
We thank you for the work of the Oxford High Street Association;
for good colleagues, neighbours and friends.
Help us to show your love to all we meet this Christmas.
God of grace and truth:

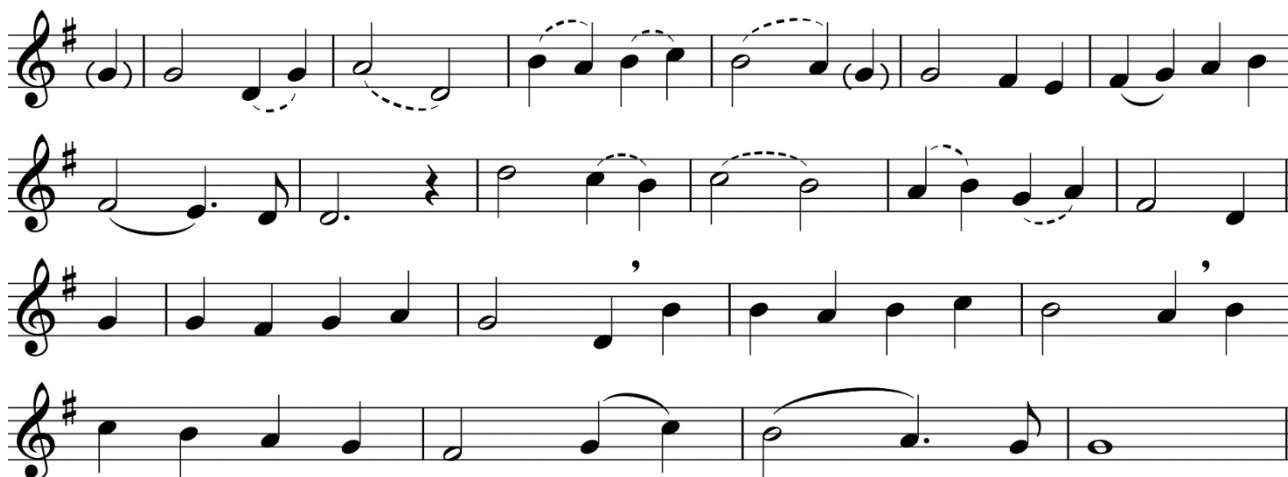
All **hear our prayer.**

We draw our prayers together in the words Jesus taught us:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

CAROL

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!***

**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, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

**Lo! star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our heart's oblations:
*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!***

Words: Latin 18th Century, trans Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) et al
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, attrib J. F. Wade (1711-1786). NEH 30

BLESSING

The Revd Dr William Lamb

Minister May the joy of the angles,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Christmas at St Mary's

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11 December

8:30 Holy Eucharist
10:30 Sung Eucharist
15:30 Carols in the Square

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 18 December

8:30 Holy Eucharist
10:30 Sung Eucharist
18:00 Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24 December

16:30 Carol Singing and Crib Service
23:30 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday 25 December

8:30 Holy Eucharist
10:30 Sung Eucharist

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