

ST BRIDGET'S WEST KIRBY



CAROL SERVICE 2025

**WE BEGIN IN A DARKENED CHURCH AS WE AWAIT THE
UNFOLDING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

Carol **VERSE ONE 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.*

Please stand

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.**

**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.**

**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**



Please sit.

Welcome and Opening Prayers

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

1st Reading *Isaiah 9 Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold*

Choir Carol *I am the gentle light*

2nd Reading *Luke 1 The Angel Gabriel visits Mary*

Carol **It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards of old,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

3rd Reading Luke 2 *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**Carol O sad and troubled Bethlehem,
we hear thy anguished cry
Above thy scarce 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.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
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.**

Choir Carol *lullay lulla*

4th Reading Luke 2. *The shepherds go to the manger.*

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
Heav'nly 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.**

5th Reading *Shepherds* by Sally Fulster-Fulton

Choir Carol *Do you hear what I hear?*

6th Reading Matthew 2 *The Wise Men are led to Jesus*

Carol **We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain **O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Lower voices

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

Upper Voices

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *Refrain***

Choir

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*



**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
heaven to earth replies. *Refrain***

Sing Aloud *Child in a manger born*

Please remain standing until the end of the next reading

Reading John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Choir Carol *Sing Aloud on this day!*

The Blessing

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:

Refrain:

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: *Refrain*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS EVE at ST BRIDGETS 3.30pm for a 4.00pm start

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am CHRISTMAS COMMUNION
at ST BRIDGET'S & CALDY



If you would like to support the mission and ministry of the parish, please use this QR code or place your donation in an envelope/box/plate. Thank you.