

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



**St Mary Magdalene
YARM**

Saturday 20th December 2025

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE offers this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols to the people of this Parish and to the community of Yarm. The nine lessons from Holy Scripture tell the story of our redemption. The carols express our worship of God, celebrating the birth of His son Jesus Christ.

The service is sung by the choir of St Mary Magdalene and conducted by Dr Robin Harrison of St Barnabas, Linthorpe; the organ is played throughout by Mr Harry Brown, Organ Scholar of Birmingham Cathedral.

There will be a retiring collection at the end of the service. All monies collected will be donated to the work and mission of Yarm Parish Church.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the service from the back of church. Please do join us if you are able. Otherwise we wish you a safe journey home.

Please feel free to take this order of service home with you as a reminder of this festival event in St Mary Magdalene's Church. On behalf of all at St Mary's we wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Organ Music

Before the Service

Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo' BWV 729

The Holy Boy

Prelude on 'The Holly and the Ivy'

J S Bach

John Ireland

Herbert Sumsion

After the Service

Final from Symphony No. 1

Louis Vierne

***Our Festival of Carols will begin with the Choir singing
'The Bells of Bethlehem' from the west end of the church.***

***The choir will then sing the first two verses of the opening carol;
please stand to join in at the third verse.***

The service will begin without announcement.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.

Choir

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.

All (stand)

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 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 Frances Alexander (1818-1885)

Music: IRBY, H J Gauntlett (1805-1876)



Please remain standing

The Rector

THE BIDDING PRAYER

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 the unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lord King Charles, within this our community of Yarm and our borough of Stockton. And because this 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 those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or 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 no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

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, 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.**

The Rector

The almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All

Amen.



THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3

Read by Avril Monck, Chorister & Verger

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

AND they 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 beguiled 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 thou shalt go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

CREATOR of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save a ruined race
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below,
from every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the father we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Words: Conditor alme siderum, trans. J M Neale (1818-1866)
Music: CONDITOR ALME, Traditional

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22

Read by Barbara Winter

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

AND the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not with-held thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.



The Choir

THIS IS THE TRUTH FROM ABOVE

THIS is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door,
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate,
is that God did man create;
the next thing, which to you I'll tell
woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run
that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear;
he here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what He did say.

Words: Traditional

Music: ENGLISH TRADITIONAL CAROL,

arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All stand to sing

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL!

O COME, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory over the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Cologne 1710, based on the Ancient Antiphons
Translated: J M Neale (1818-1866)
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

Please be seated

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9

Read by Debbie Gravestock of the Mothers' Union

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

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 men,
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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
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.

Words: E H Sears (1810-1876)

*Music: NOEL, English traditional melody adapted
by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

Please be seated



THE FOURTH LESSON

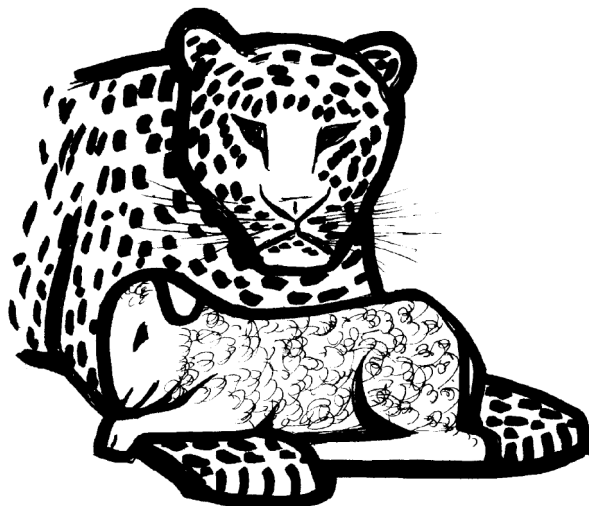
Isaiah 11

Read by Mr David Boddy of Yarm School

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.



GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicéd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blesséd babe to find.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen fed on hay;
his mother Mary, kneeling,
unto the Lord did pray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Words: Traditional
Music: ENGLISH TRADITIONAL CAROL,
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

Please be seated

FIFTH LESSON

Luke I

Read by Councillor Stephen Richardson, Mayor of Stockton

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin 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. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 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.

The Choir

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

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 know 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 pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!

Words: Basque carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Basque traditional carol, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE SIXTH LESSON

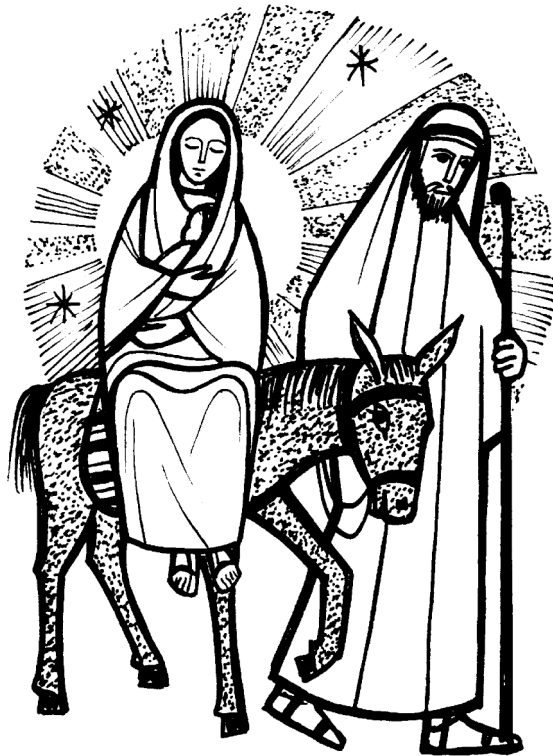
Luke 2

Read by Beryl Nadin, Parochial Church Council Member

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.



The Choir

TORCHES

TORCHES, torches, run with torches
all the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
come and sing your song to Him!
Torches, torches, run with torches
all the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
while we sing you our Rorro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
now and evermore. Amen.

Words: Galician carol translated by John Brande Trend (1887-1958)
Music: TORCHES, John Joubert (1927-2019)

All stand to sing

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

*Music: FOREST GREEN, harmonised by
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*



Please be seated

The Choir

JESUS, O WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD

JESUS, JESUS oh what a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus so lowly meek and mild;
New life, new hope, new joy he brings.
Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the new born King.

He was herald by the angels, born in a lowly manger.
The virgin Mary was his mother
and Joseph was his earthly father.
Three wise men came from afar
they were guided by a shining star
to see King Jesus where he lay
in a manger filled with hay.

New life, new hope, new joy he brings.
Won't you listen to the angels sing,
Glory, glory, glory to the new born king.

Words: Margaret Allison (b 1950)

Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, arranged by Jeff Guillen (b 1966)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2

Read by Peter Monck, Church Warden

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.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

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 heavenly 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;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Music: WINCHESTER OLD from T Este, Psalms, 1592

Please be seated

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2

Read by The Revd Emma Cain, Assistant Curate

The wise men are 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 wise men 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 Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired 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. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

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.

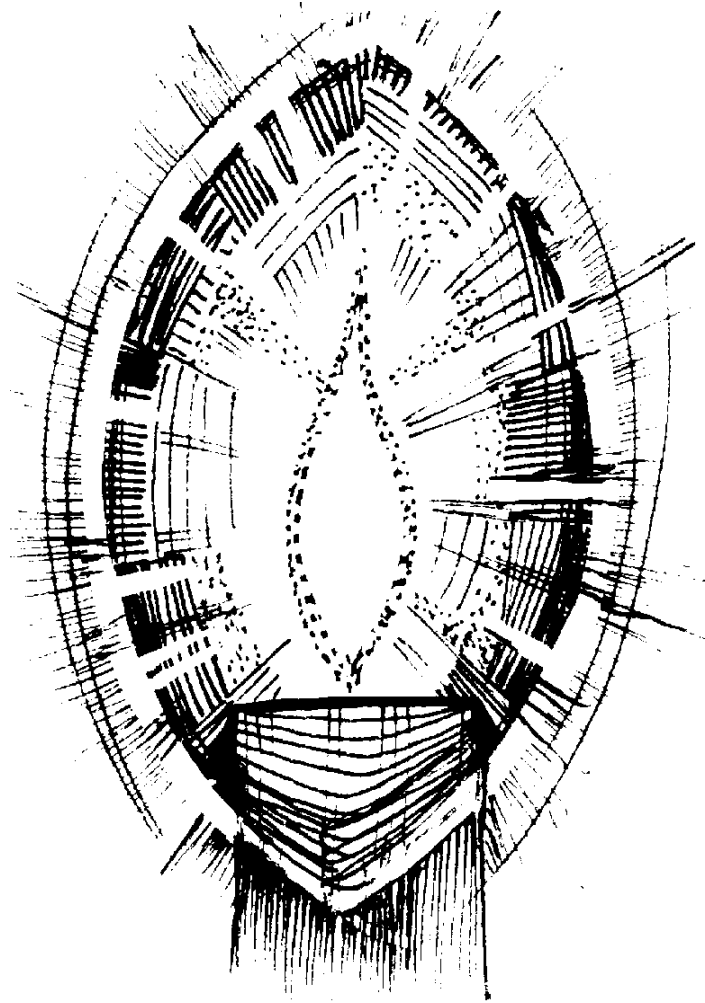
Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breast-ful of milk,
and a manger-ful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

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: IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, Harold Darke (1888-1976)



SILENT NIGHT

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 heav'n 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.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Please remain standing for:

THE NINTH LESSON

John I

Read by The Reverend Darren Moore, Rector

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 he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name who 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.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain standing to sing:

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!*

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, translated by F Oakley (1802-1880) and others
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attributed to J FWade (1711-1786)*

Please remain standing

THE COLLECT

The Rector

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

All

The Rector

Let us pray

ALMIGHTY God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen



Please remain standing

The Rector

THE BLESSING

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All

Amen



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

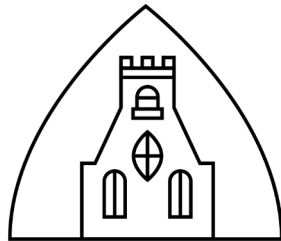
HARK! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest 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) and others

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



YARM PARISH CHURCH

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Advent 2025

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