

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



Welcome to St John the Baptist, Smallwood

We are an Inclusive Church and want you to feel at home here. This service booklet is to guide you through the service.



The words to the carols we will sing are printed in Carol Sheet. We usually stand up when we sing, but please stay sitting down if that is more comfortable for you.

If you have come with children, we love to hear them play. Feel free to allow your children to move about. At the back there are children's activities that you can bring back to your pew to do together.



An induction loop is available for the hard of hearing.
Please switch your hearing aid to the T setting.

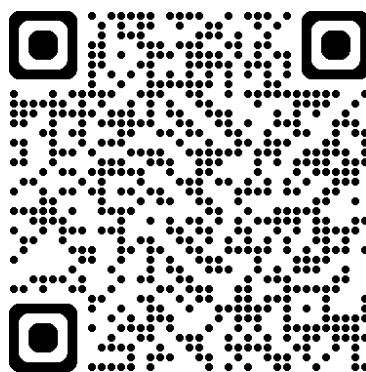
There is a toilet at the back of church, near the main door.

Large print copies of this booklet are available.
Please ask the person who welcomed you.

St John's Smallwood is largely funded through the incredible goodwill of people. We invite you to consider a gift to help us continue our vital and ever-growing work of mission and ministry in the local community.

The QR code will take you direct to our giving page. Alternatively, cash can be given through the plate.

Thank you for your generosity.



Find us on achurchnearyou.com
facebook.com/StJohnsSmallwood
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Introduction:

Carol 19: Once in Royal David's City

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Bidding Prayer *ending with:*

We say together, as Christ himself 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 12: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Reading: Christ's birth foretold.

Isaiah 9:2,6-7 (NRSV)

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 3: Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Reading: The peace that Christ will bring.

Isaiah 11:1-9 (NRSV)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow
out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of

wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol 2: In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Reading: The glory of little Bethlehem. *Micah 5:2-4 (NRSV)*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Carol 1: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading: The angel Gabriel meets the virgin Mary. *Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)*

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

Carol 5: The First Nowell

Reading: Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus *Matthew 1:18-23* (NRSV)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Carol 6: Away in a Manger

Reading: The shepherds go to the manger. *Luke 2:8-16 (NRSV)*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol 7: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

Reading: The wise men are led by the star. *Matthew 2:1-11 (NRSV)*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.””
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol 4: As With Gladness Men of Old

Poem: *Second Letter to the Corinthians* Robert Salter

Carol 14: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Reading: John unfolds the great mystery. *John 1:1-14 (NRSV)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what

was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol 17 Ding dong Merrily on High

Poem: *'Twas the night before Christmas* by Clement Moore

Carol 11: Joy to the World

CLOSING PRAYER

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CHRISTMAS AT SMALLWOOD

DECEMBER 2025

Saturday 20th
12:30pm - 2:30pm

Quiet Christmas
Church open for private prayer and reflection

Sunday 21st
9:30am

Holy Communion
Service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve
3:00pm

Crib Service
Join us as we tell the story of Christmas

10:00pm

Holy Communion
The first communion of Christmas with refreshments before the service