

Bradwell-on-Sea Candlelit Carol Service at St Peter's Chapel

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER by Revd Steven Poss

Carol: Once in royal David's city (verse 1 solo voice, verse 2 choir only)

1. *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.*
2. *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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
Mrs Cecil F. Alexander.

BIDDING PRAYER by Revd Steven Poss

Beloved in Christ...

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: O little town of Bethlehem

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.
English traditional carol

1st Reading: Isaiah 9; 6-7 (Birth of the Messiah is foretold)

Choir Carol: A virgin most pure

2nd Reading: Micah 5; 2-5 (Jesus's coming is foretold)

Carol: The angel Gabriel

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!
2. "For known a blessed Mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually,
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God!" she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
"Most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!
4. 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

3rd Reading: Luke 1: 26-38 (The angel Gabriel visits Mary)

Carol: Hark the herald angels sing

1. 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!"
2. 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 the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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!"

4th Reading: Luke 2: 1-7 (The birth of Jesus)

Choir Carol: A boy is born in Bethlehem

5th Reading: Luke 2: 8-16 (The shepherds go to the manger)

Carol: It came upon a midnight clear

1. It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

5. 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 give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

6th Reading - Poem; Ring out, wild bells, Tennyson

Carol: I saw three ships come sailing in (Men Odd verses-Women Even verses-All last verse)

1. I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.
2. *And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?*
3. The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
4. *Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?*
5. O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
6. *And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*
7. And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
8. *And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*
9. Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

7th Reading: Matthew 2.1-12 The wise men visit Jesus

Carol: We three Kings of Orient are;

1. We three kings of Orient are **(ALL)**
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star
*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light*
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain **(CHOIR)**
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign
3. Frankincense to offer have I **(WOMEN)**
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high
4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume **(MEN)**
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb
5. Glorious now behold Him arise **(ALL)**
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

8th Reading: John 1; 1-5, 14 (The incarnation of the Word of God)

Carol: The first Nowell;

1 The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

3 And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent

And to follow the star wherever it went
4 This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay

5 Then entered in those Wise men three
Fell reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought

PRAYERS by Revd Steven Poss

Carol: O come, all ye faithful

1. **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!

2. God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

Tr. Frederick Oakeley.

BLESSING by Revd Steven Poss

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*There will be a retiring collection in aid of Crisis for Christmas and
Ethiopia Hope*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Thomas's Church

Bradwell-on-Sea

Tuesday 24th December — CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30 pm Crib Service and Nativity Story

A service for all families and children

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

This great Christmas service in which we welcome in Christmas day and the birth of Jesus Christ, all welcome.

Wednesday 25th December — CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 am Christmas Morning Praise

A celebration for everyone to enjoy

Bring your favourite Christmas present

Sunday 29th December — Christmas 1

10.00 am Joint Benefice Communion at St James' Dengie

Sunday 5th January — Epiphany

10.30 am Communion at St Thomas'

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