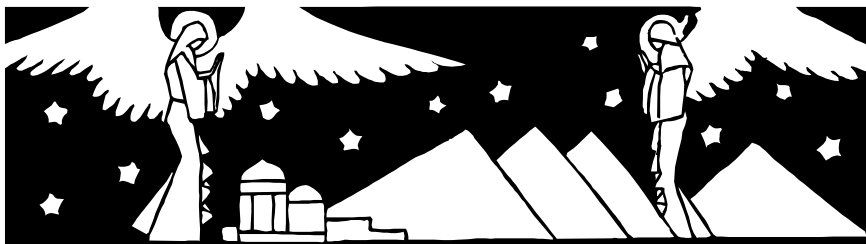


Holy Trinity, Dacre Banks & St Saviour's, Thornthwaite
Service of Lessons & Carols for Christmas
Sunday December 20th 2020

We cannot pass a plate for a collection at the moment but there is a plate for donations on the way out of church.

If you are watching the pre-recorded version of this service you can give to Holy Trinity Church via our new Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/holytrinity-pccdacre>



Welcome & Introduction - the Advent candles are lit.

Bidding Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

1st Carol: 'In the Bleak Midwinter'

- 1. 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.**
- 2. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven 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.**
- 3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
But only His mother in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.**

(PTO)

- 4. 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.**

Reading 1: Isaiah 9:1-2,6-7 (*A prophecy that a child to be born will bring light to our human darkness and reign forever*)

Reading 2: Luke 2:1-7 (*No room as Christ is born*)

2nd Carol: 'Silent Night'

- 1. 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!**
- 2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**
- 3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light
radiant, beams Thy Holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

Reading 3: 'The Oxen', by Thomas Hardy (*A reflection on an old legend that animals in their sheds would kneel on Christmas Eve at the moment Christ was born*)

Reading 4: Luke 2:8-20 (*The Good News comes first to the poor*)



3rd Carol: 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light;
Come and worship...
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star;
Come and worship...
4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship...

Reading 5: Matthew 2:1 – 11 (*The visit of the Magi*)



4th Carol: 'God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen'

- 1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas 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***
- 2. 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...***
- 3. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.
*O tidings of comfort and joy...***
- 4. And when to Bethlehem they came
Where Christ the infant lay,
They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
And there beside her newborn child
His mother knelt to pray.
*O tidings of comfort and joy...***
- 5. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
With Christian love and fellowship
Each other now embrace;
And let this Christmas festival
All bitterness displace:
*O tidings of comfort and joy...***

Reading 6: John 1:1-14 (*The meaning of all things is made flesh*)

Address by *Revd Alastair Ferneley*

5th & Final 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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"**
- 2. 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!"**
- 3. 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 us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"**

Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
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 Christmastide
And evermore. **Amen.**

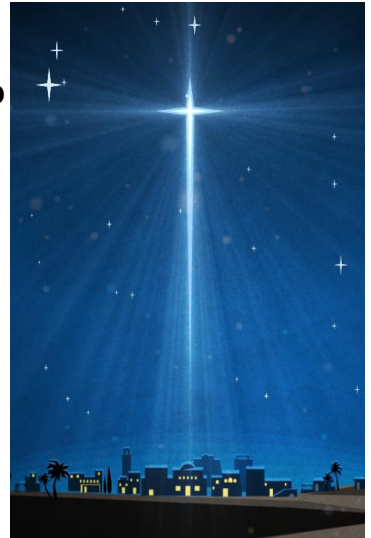
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At the end of the service, we hope to be able to sing a couple of carols together outside – weather allowing. If we can do this, please bring your carol word sheet with you when you leave. Please maintain social distancing as we are leaving the church & outside as well. To help this, please could those at the back of church leave first, following out from back to front.



- 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:**

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- 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**

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- 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 that 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 mean 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. 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,
When, like stars, His children crowned
All in white, shall wait around.**