

ST MARY'S ASTBURY



LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

[The service will proceed unannounced]

WELCOME

BIDDING PRAYER

CAROL

[v.l choir only]

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.

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.

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.

Ist LESSON Genesis 3: 8–14 The Fall

CAROL

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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

2nd LESSON Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7 The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

CHOIR *He shall feed his flock* Handel / Webbe

3rd LESSON Isaiah 11: 1–3a, 4a, 6–9 The prophecy of the kingdom of peace

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 quail, at the sight,
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light:
Radiance beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4th LESSON Luke 1: 26–35, 38 The Annunciation to Mary

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;
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 to gaze;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps: *[refrain]*

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child
Bring our hearts' oblations: *[refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest: *[refrain]*

5th LESSON Luke 2: 1–7 The birth of Jesus

CHOIR *In the bleak midwinter* Darke

6th LESSON Luke 2: 8–16 The shepherds go to the manger

CAROL

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;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

7th LESSON Matthew 2: 1–12 The wise men seek Jesus

CHOIR *Thou child divine* Schulz

[All stand]

8th LESSON John 1: 1–14 The Incarnation of the Word of God

CAROL

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.'*

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 the 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 men 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.'*

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding, dong, verily the sky
Is riven with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis,.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis.

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen.
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen. [*refrain*]

Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers.
May ye beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers. [*refrain*]

BLESSING

Christmas Services at St Mary's

Christmas Eve

5.00 pm Crib service

11.30 pm Midnight communion

Christmas Day

8.00 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Family Service



St Mary's is largely funded through the incredible goodwill of people like you. At this Christmas time, 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. This QR code will take you direct to our giving page, there is a contactless donation box at the back of church, or you can visit www.astburychurch.org.uk

Merry Christmas and thank you for your generosity.

