

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate**  
**URC**  
***Service of Nine Lessons***  
***and Carols***



**Sunday 18 December 2022**

Sunday 18 December 2022

*The theme of our service is 'Jesus our King'. Worship will proceed without announcement. If you are able, please stand for the verses in **bold type**.*

CAROL

Once in Royal David's City  
*Verse 1 Solo, verse 2 Choir, verses 3 & 4 all*  
*Please stand as the Bible enters*

**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.**

**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.**

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)*

WELCOME AND NOTICES

The lighting of the advent candles

OPENING PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR

In the beginning was the word of Life  
Bonington & Forster.

CAROL

**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, goodwill to men,  
From heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring 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.**

*E.H. Sears (1810-76)*

READING The prophet foretells the coming of a  
Saviour

Isaiah 9, verses 2, 6 & 7

CHOIR Those who walked in deepest darkness  
Mawby & Forster

READING The promise to Zachariah  
Luke 1, verses 11-17

CAROL **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:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night:  
God with you is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:  
*Gloria in .....***

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star:  
*Gloria in.....***

**Saints, before the altar bending,**

**Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear:**

***Gloria in .....***

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND BLESSING

*The Primary & Beginners leave for their own activities*

READING The Angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary  
Luke 1, verses 26-38

CHOIR Gabriel to Mary Came, Willcocks

READING Mary and Joseph  
Matthew 1, verses 18-24

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 wond'ring love.  
How silently, how silently,**

**The wondrous gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
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.**

*Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

READING The birth of Jesus in the manger  
Luke 2, verses 1-7

CHOIR What sweeter music, Rutter

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 th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born King!"***

**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 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 heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun 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!"*

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

READING        The Shepherds are prompted to go to  
Bethlehem

Luke 2, verses 8-16

CHOIR            O leave your sheep, Leighton

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 world be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to  
earth**

**Begin and never cease!"**

*(Luke 2 verses 8-14) Para N. Tate (1652-1715)*

READING    The Magi present their gifts  
Matthew 2, verses 1-12

CHOIR            Guide us star, Gaunt

REFLECTION    Jesus, OUR King

CHOIR            A Gallery Carol, Warrell

READING    John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation  
John 1, verses 1-5 & 10-14

BLESSING

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:**

***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 heav'n 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!***



*Latin 18<sup>th</sup> cent., possibly J F Wade (c 1711-86)*

*Tr. F Oakeley (1802-80), W T Brooke & others*

*Minister: Rev Chris Ford  
Choir Director: Mrs Phil Hodgson  
Organist: Mrs Gemma Marshall*

Words used by permission CCLI Licence 114191

*You are warmly invited to join us for light refreshments  
in the large hall after the service.*

*Our Christmas charities this year are  
The Friary and  
Christian Aid's East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal.  
Please use the blue bags provided in the church or  
the bowls on the refreshment tables*

**the Friary Working  
locally to end homelessness**