

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

**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.**



**Sunday 21 December 2025 at 11am
Goldsmith Street, Nottingham NG1 5JT**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21 December 2025

*The theme of our service is 'What can I give Him?'. 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 (at the start of verse 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.
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

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days ahead when the Lord will give us a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us)

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

OPENING PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

READING The cost of disobedience
Genesis 3, verses 8-15

CHOIR Mid-winter, Bob Chilcott

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 the Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9, verses 2, 6 & 7

CHOIR Rejoice and be merry, John Rutter

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Primary & Beginners leave for their own activities

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)

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

CHOIR What sweeter music, John Rutter

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.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

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

CHOIR All bells in paradise, John 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 Love Came Down, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

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

REFLECTION What can I give Him?

CAROL

In the bleak midwinter
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 midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the Beloved With a kiss.

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.

Christina Rossetti (1830-94) altd

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

BLESSING

CHOIR The holly and the ivy, Stuart Thompson

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,
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 18th cent., possibly J F Wade (c 1711-86)
Tr. F Oakeley (1802-80), W T Brooke & others*

Choir Director: Phil Hodgson

Organist: Gemma Marshall

We give a very warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, either in the sanctuary or on-line. If you are sitting next to a microphone, it is in use. This Service will be live-streamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending, you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns, please speak with our Church Secretary.

If you are visiting for the first time, please do fill out a visitor's card, which can be found in the vestibule. We would be very pleased to stay in touch with you.

Play-bags are available for our youngest friends in the vestibule. These may be used, under parental supervision, until our younger friends leave for Junior Church.

We warmly invite you to join us after the Service for light refreshments in the large hall. There is a lift, if you require one. When using the lift, please keep your finger on the button until you have arrived at your destination.

Our Christmas charities this year are the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance and The URC Ukraine Appeal.



Cash donations may be placed in the blue offertory bags hanging on the end of the pews at the back of church or, at the end of the Service, on the large offertory plate by the door leading to the halls. Donations may also be made through the card reader on the shelf by the right hand door at the back of Church.

St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church is registered with the Charity Commission as: St Andrew's with Castle Gate Nottingham United Reformed Church, registered number 1129944.

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St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church, Nottingham

Living God's love through faith and action

Christingle Service

Wed 24 Dec 3.00pm

Now mid-afternoon, the young and young-at-heart take a break from all the Sant-icipation to enjoy the Christmas story in song and craft.

Christmas Eve Carol Singing

Wed 24 Dec from 6.00pm

Sweet chiming Christmas bells! Our Youth Group and friends take festive requests on diverse doorsteps, before returning to base for...

Midnight Service of Holy Communion

Wed 24 Dec 11.15pm

Candle-lit worship and Communion led by **The Revd James Breslin** mark the moment of mystery when Christ comes into the world.

Christmas Day Family Service

Thu 25 Dec 10.30am

Young and old gather to ding-dong merrily and share Christmas cheer, as **Mark Hodgson** leads a short celebration of Jesus' birth.

Sunday Worship at Christmas Time

Sun 28 Dec 11.00am

Festivities continue with **The Revd James Breslin** leading praise.

Worship for Epiphany and New Year

Sun 4 Jan 11.00am

Sunday worship with Communion as our Synod Moderator **The Revd Geoffrey Clarke** rings in the new and recalls the Wise Men's visit.

More information on our Church's life and witness may be found at:

www.standrewswithcastlegate.org.uk.

www.facebook.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate

www.instagram.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate

