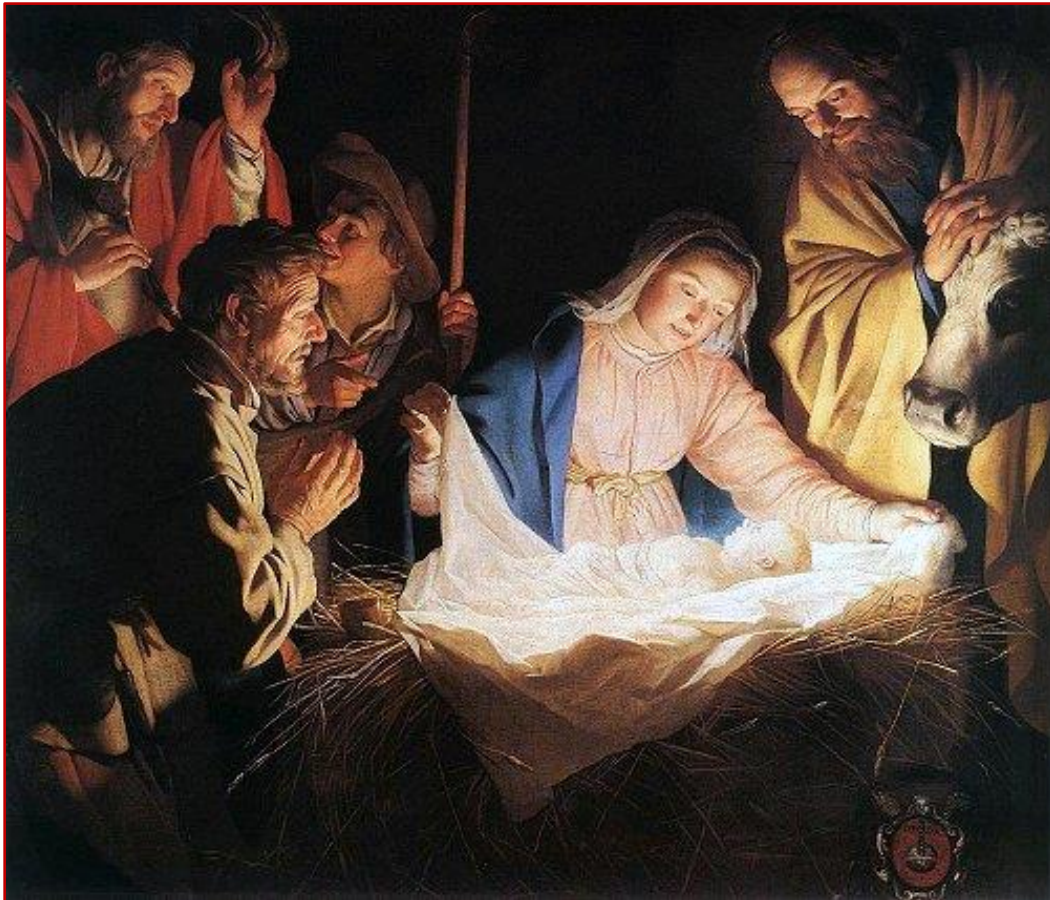


*St Mary's*



**FESTIVAL OF  
LESSONS  
AND  
CAROLS**

*19 December 2021  
7.00pm*

**ST MARY'S NORTH MELBOURNE**

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The Vicar, The Reverend Canon Jan Joustra

Director of Music: Beverley Philips

St Mary's Parish Choir and Friends

***Welcome to St Mary's North Melbourne.***

***Thank you for joining us in worship.***

*Please join in saying the text marked in **bold**  
and singing the musical responses and hymns.*

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*A bell rings. Please Stand.*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

**Verse 1: 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.

**Verse 2: Choir Only**

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.

**All:**

**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.**

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**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.**

**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.**

*H.J Gaunlett,  
arr. David Willcocks*

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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## THE VICAR

In the name of Christ and his Church I bid you welcome to this Church of St Mary for this service of Lessons and Carols. We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to begin the celebration of the festival of Christmas. In this service we will hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ, and we will offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

## A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

**Choir: This is the Truth sent from above**

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God the God of love: Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create, the next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell. Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice to place them both in Paradise, there to remain, from evil free except they ate of such a tree. But they did eat which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin. Ruined themselves, both you and me, and all of their posterity. Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose, and so a promise soon did run, that he would redeem us by his Son.

*Trad. Collected by R Vaughan Williams. Setting: James Kirkby*

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**1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15**

*Adam and Eve hear God walking in the garden*

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’

Thanks be to God

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**COME, THOU REDEEMER OF THE EARTH.**

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**

**From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds,  
runs out his course to death and hell,  
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

*St. Ambrose trans J. M. Neale. Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur.*

**2ND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

*Christ's unique birth and reign of peace are foretold by the prophet Isaiah*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.



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For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God

### **Choir: To Abraham the Promise Came**

To Abraham the promise came, and to his seed forever, a light to shine in Isaac's line by scripture we discover. Hail. Promised morn, the Saviour's born. The glorious Mediator, God's blessed Word made flesh and blood, assumed the human nature. No royal things as used by kings were seen by those that found him, but in the hay the stranger lay, with swaddling bands around him. The city's name is Bethlehem, in which God hath appointed, this glorious morn a Saviour's born, for him God hath anointed. On that same night a glorious light to shepherds there appeared, bright angels came in shining flame, they saw and greatly feared. The Angel's said, "Be not afraid, although we much alarm you, we do appear good news to bear, as now we will inform you." When this was said, straight way was made a glorious sound from heaven. Each flaming tongue an anthem sung, "To all a Saviour's given." In Jesus' name, the glorious theme we elevate our voices, at Jesus' birth be peace on earth, meanwhile all heaven rejoices.

*William Walker (The Babe of Bethlehem) arr. A. O. Gibbs.*

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**3RD LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a**

*Micah prophesies that Bethlehem is where God's glory will be revealed.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Thanks be to God

**HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**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.**

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**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.**

English trad. Melody,  
arr. R Vaughan Williams & Thomas Armstrong

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#### 4TH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

### *The Angel Gabriel reveals God's plan for Christ's birth to the Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God

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**HYMN: THE ANGEL GABRIEL**

**Verse 1: Choir only**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady, “Gloria!

**“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady, “Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**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 favored lady,” Gloria!**

*Words: Basque carol;  
trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

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**5TH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16**

***The shepherds hear the angels' message and visit the Christchild.***

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

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**HYMN: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT**

**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 on high,  
Who thus addressed their song.**

**“All glory be to God on high,  
And to the Earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from Heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!”**

*arr. David Willcocks*

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## **Choir: The Motcombe Angel's carol**

Lullaby Jesus, Son of God with us, Peacefully lie! Angels nearby will guard You well. Scriptures tell how at night startled shepherds took fright. May we stay here? Stay without fear? Newborn Jesus, You will lead us, and all your life will love and guide and teach us. Seraphim, Cherubim all around, sing to Him! Angel choirs sing! Let the bells ring with joyful sounds! Love abounds! "Peace on earth." Celebrate the Saviour's birth. Here you lie sleeping, animals keeping guard the night through, welcoming You, so slumber well, Scriptures tell: Pain will come, then Easter joy, Ascension home. Wondrous promise to be with us till the world's end; all the world's friend. Lullaby Jesus, Son of God with us, Lullaby.

*Words and music Barry Ferguson*

## **6TH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11**

### ***The wise men are led by the star to find the Christ-child in Bethlehem***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told



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him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

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**HYMN: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

**Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark the herald angels sing ...***

**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,**

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**Born to raise the sons of earth.  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark the herald angels sing ...***

*F Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks*

*All Please Stand  
The following lesson will be read aloud in Greek*

**7TH LESSON: John 1:1-18**

***John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation***

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those

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who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

*(Common English Bible)*

Thanks be to God.

### **Choir: Love came down at Christmas**

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and neighbours.  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

*Music R.O. Morris; arr S Cleobury.  
Text: Christina Rossetti.*

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## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray:

For all Christian people, that by this festival they may be renewed to fulfil Christ's work in this world; especially for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, for our bishops, Philip and Genieve and for the clergy and people of this diocese. We remember also our brothers and sisters in faith, as we pray for Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, and for all the leaders of the Free and Protestant Churches.

We pray for our Queen, Elizabeth the Second, and her family, we pray for the leaders of nations throughout the world, for all who bear responsibility in administration, in politics, in law, in industry, in commerce, and in education and communication, that they may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace.

We pray particularly for the peace of our broken and divided world, that people of all nations may join together in this season, lay aside their differences and work together for the common benefit of all God's people. We especially remember the people of God's Holy Land, the citizens of Palestine and Israel - Muslims, Jews and Christians - and we pray that God's peace may be upon them at this time and in the years to come.

We pray also for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful, the bereaved, and those in prison.

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And we commend all whom we love, particularly those who are distant from us at this time and those who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together the prayer which Christ himself taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

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**HYMN:            O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**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 ....***

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come ....***

**Lo! Star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations:  
*O come ....***

**Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
*O come ....***

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**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
*O come ...***

*J F Wade, arr David Willcocks*

**THE BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE:**

Toccatà. (from Variations sur le choral "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland")

*Denis Bédard. (2016)*

