

150



1873

St. Michael's Church, Galleywood

2023

Carol Service

Sunday 17th December 2023, 4pm

Welcome and introduction

Carol: "Once in royal David's city" (19)

(Verse 1 is sung by children, and verse 2 by church and school choirs. Please stand and join in at verse 3.)

¹Once 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.

²He 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 meek and
lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour
holy.

³And through all his wondrous
childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly
mother
In whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all should be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

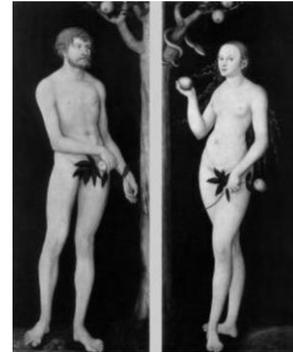
⁴For he is our childhood's
pattern:
Day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and
helpless;
Tears and smiles like us he
knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our
gladness.

⁵And 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.

⁶Not 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.

Reading 1: The Fall – Adam and Eve have eaten the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:8-19)

At the end of each reading:
This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.



Carol: “See amid the winter’s snow” (8)

¹See amid the winter’s snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the Lamb of God appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

²Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height
sublime
Sits amid the cherubim.

³Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your
sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

⁴As we watched at dead of
night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light:
Angels singing, “Peace on
earth”
Told us of the Saviour’s birth.’

⁵Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest
bliss
Down to such a world as this!

⁶Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility.

Reading 2: God's promise to Abraham
(Genesis 12:1-3)



Choir anthem: "O holy night"

Reading 3: The prophets foretell the
coming of the Messiah (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)



Carol: "Joy to the world" (11)

¹Joy to the world! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

²Joy to the earth! the Saviour
reigns;
Let us our songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding
joy!

³He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his
righteousness,
The wonders of his love,
The wonders of his love,
The wonders, the wonders of
his love.



Reading 4: The promise of the Messiah from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-5a)

Carol: "O little town of Bethlehem" (1)

¹O 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.

²O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the
King,
And peace to all on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wondering love.

Reading 5: The angel Gabriel
announces Jesus' birth to the
Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

³How 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.

⁴O 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 Immanuel!



Carol: “Silent night” (13)

¹Silent 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.

²Silent 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!

³Silent night, holy night
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**Reading 6: The birth of Jesus
(Luke 2:1-7)**



**St Michael’s Junior School choir anthem: “The Virgin Mary had
a baby boy”**

Reading 7: The shepherds hear the good news (Luke 2:8-16)

Carol: “Hark! The herald-angels sing” (10)

¹Hark! 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!’

²Christ, 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 Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'

³Hail 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 we 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.'



Reading 8: The visit of the Magi
(Matthew 2:1-12)

Carol: "We three kings" (21)

¹We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we travel afar,
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
Following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still
proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

²Born on King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again:
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

³Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all are
raising,
Worship him, God most high.

⁴Myrrh is mine: its bitter
perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

⁵Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'
'Alleluia!' the earth replies.

Talk

Prayers, finishing with 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.



Reading 9: "...the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us..." (John 1:1-14)

Carol: "O come, all ye faithful" (12)
(We sing verses 1 to 3.)

¹O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
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!*

²God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's
womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

³Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

Blessing

St Michael's Christmas services are:

Saturday 23rd December

Carols on the Common

(informal carol singing around the Christmas tree, at the Heritage
Centre)

Christmas Eve

Christingle, 4pm

Midnight Communion, 11.15pm

Christmas Day

Family Communion, 10am (also livestreamed on Facebook)

Our regular service time is 10am on Sundays – everyone is
welcome.

May God bless you and bring you a very happy Christmas, and a
joyful new year!