

# 150



1873

St. Michael's Church, Galleywood

2023

## Carol Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.)*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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 meek and  
lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour  
holy.

<sup>3</sup>And 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.

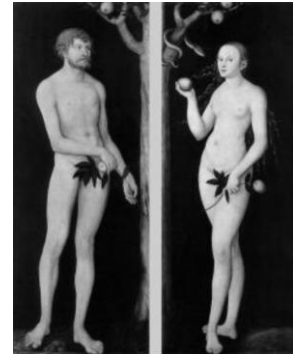
<sup>4</sup>For he is our childhood's  
pattern:  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and  
helpless;  
Tears and smiles like us he  
knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our  
gladness.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

**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)

<sup>1</sup>See 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!*

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup>Teach, 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)

<sup>1</sup>Joy 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!

<sup>2</sup>Joy 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!

<sup>3</sup>He 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)

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>O 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)

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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 Immanuel!



**Carol: "Silent night" (13)**

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>Silent 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!

<sup>3</sup>Silent 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)**

<sup>1</sup>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!'

<sup>2</sup>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 Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
'Glory to the new-born King.'

<sup>3</sup>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 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)

<sup>1</sup>We 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.*

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Glorious 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.)*

<sup>1</sup>O 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!*

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

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

## **Blessing**

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### **St Michael's Christmas services are:**

#### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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)

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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!