

**A SERVICE OF NINE
LESSONS AND CAROLS**



**St Mary's Church
Bideford**

Sunday 18 December 2022

**Service led by Rev'd Prebendary Claire Rose-Casemore
and recorded for BBC Radio Devon**

Before the Service: La Nativite
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Carol

V1 Solo, by Christopher Marshall from St Mary's Primary School

V2 Choir

V3-5 Congregation

(Congregation stand after V2)

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.

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.

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 must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

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.

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Including the Lord's prayer which we pray together ...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the
glory, are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

1st Reading by John Henderson, member of the congregation

Genesis 3: 8-15
(The Fall)

Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw,
A draughty stable
with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The Prince of glory is his name.

Chorus

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor
as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory
when He came.



Star of silver,
sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus
in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly
from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour
of the world .

Chorus

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor
as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory
when He came.

Angels, sing again
the song you sang,
Bring God's glory
to the heart of man;
Sing that Bethlehem's
little baby can
Be salvation
to the soul.

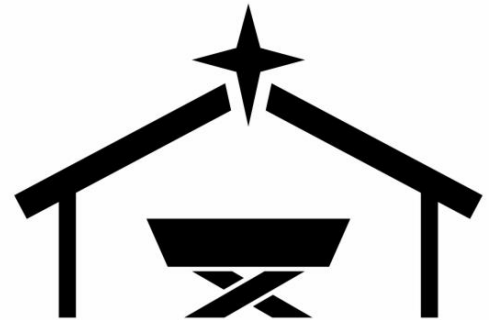
Chorus

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor
as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory
when He came.

Mine are riches,
from Thy poverty,
From Thine innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness
by Thy death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

Chorus

O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor
as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory
when He came.



2nd Reading by Sam Pirrie, member of the congregation

Genesis 22: 15-18

(The Promise to Abraham)

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:
Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant-light:
Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Though an infant now we view Him,
He will share His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to Him;
every knee shall then bow down.
Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

3rd Reading by Ro Day, Churchwarden

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

(The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth)

Choir Carol—CHRISTMAS KUM BA YA
by Jay Althouse



4th Reading John Riley, member of the congregation

Micah 5: 2-4

(The Messiah to be born in Bethlehem)

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 shining
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.



5th Reading by Rev'd Marisa Cockfield, Rural Dean, and Sarah Cordingley, Reader

Luke 1: 26-38

(The Annunciation to Mary)

Carol

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.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds first saw the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar:
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia.
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born'

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.

6th Reading by Naomi Tottle, Headteacher at St Mary's Primary School

Matthew 1: 18-23
(The Birth of Emmanuel)

Carol

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side
until morning is nigh.



Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
to live with thee there.

7th Reading by Bideford Mayor, Councillor Jude Gubb

Luke 2: 8-16

(The shepherds go to the manger)

Choir Carol—STAR CAROL

John Rutter

8th Reading by Christine Holmes, member of the congregation

Matthew 2: 1-11

(The Magi led by the star)

Carol

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

Chorus

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

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

Chorus

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

Frankincense for Jesus have I,
God on earth yet Priest on high:
Prayer and praising all men raising
Worship is earth's reply.



Chorus

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

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Tells of his death and Calvary's gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb:

Chorus

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

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice:
Heaven sings "Alleluia",
"Alleluia" the earth replies.

Chorus

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

Please remain standing for

9th Reading by Rev'd Robin Pirrie, Associate Team Vicar at St Mary's

John 1: 1-14

(The Incarnation of the Word of God)

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,

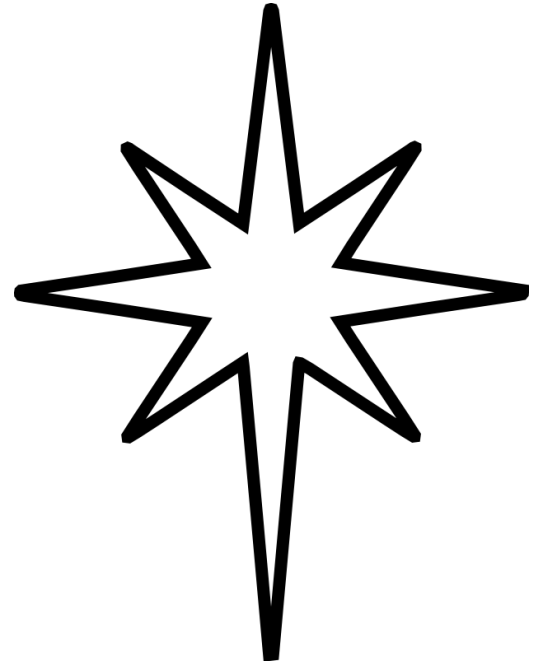
Join the triumph of the skies,

With the angelic host proclaim,

'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Hark! the herald angels sing:

'Glory to the new-born King!'



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.'



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;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'

Concluding Prayers from Rev'd Chris Hutchins, Curate at St Mary's

Let us bless the living God:

He was born of the Virgin Mary,
Revealed in his glory

Worshipped by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations

Believed in throughout the world,
Exalted to the highest heavens

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you
always. **Amen.**

Choir Carol — *A Christmas Blessing*
Philip Stopford

Recessional 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 heaven 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.

After the Service:

Alleluyas by Simon Preston

Organist: John Nixon
Pianist: Pam Beechey
Director of Music: Chris Beechey

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***We wish you all a very Happy Christmas
and every blessing in 2023!***

