

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday 22 December 2024
6.30 pm

St John The Evangelist, Ranmoor



WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for this marvellous occasion: an act of Christmas worship both for us present in this church, as well as for those joining us online.

To help those who are listening to the online broadcast and your neighbour enjoy the experience of worshipping with us this evening, please make sure that your personal devices are switched off.

The service will begin at 6:30 pm with the famous *Once in Royal David's City* solo sung by one of our young choristers and you are invited to turn towards the West End of the church.

Unfortunately, due to limited space in this building, the toilet facilities in the church are reserved only for the staff and the members of the choir. However, our Parish Centre which is across the road has an accessible toilet facility along with a general toilet. Do kindly ask one of our duty wardens if you want further directions to the Parish Centre.

Should we have to evacuate the church building, the service will stop. Please listen for directions and follow them quietly and calmly.

A collection will be taken during the hymn *In the bleak Midwinter* and your contribution will be appreciated. If you wish to make a more considered or sustained financial contribution to help support the life of our parish church and the ongoing renovation of the spire and tower, please kindly contact one of our members of the clergy or our Parish Administrator.

I hope that you will want to join us for other Christmas services over the next week. There will be a Midnight Mass on the 24 December at 11:30 pm and the Christmas Day Choral Eucharist on the 25 December at 10:30 am.

Please join us for mulled wine and minced pies following the service.

Finally, on behalf of the clergy, wardens, and the Parochial Church Council of Ranmoor, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

The Reverend Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes
Vicar of Ranmoor

ORGAN PRELUDE

Noëls - Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

All STAND and TURN towards the WEST END of the church

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

C.F. Alexander 1828-95

Solo

1. 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.

4. 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.

Choir

2. 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.

5. 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.

All

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.

6. 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.

Remain STANDING
BIDDING PRAYER

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you.
We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

The LORD'S PRAYER

**All 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 them that 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.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
And unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels
bring us all.

All Amen

All SIT
FIRST LESSON
Genesis 3.8-15

GOD ANNOUNCES IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN THAT THE SEED OF WOMAN SHALL BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD.

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.

CAROL

Sung by the choir

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord 1897-1961, arr. Barry Rose

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

Nè had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavenè queen.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden
Written in their book.

Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22.15-18

GOD PROMISES TO FAITHFUL ABRAHAM THAT IN HIS SEED SHALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Thanks be to God.

All STAND

HYMN

It came upon the midnight clear
Edmund Sears 1810-76

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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!

4. 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.

All SIT

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9.2,6-7

CHRIST'S BIRTH AND KINGDOM ARE FORETOLD BY 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.

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.

Great will be his authority, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Sung by the choir

And the glory of the Lord from *Messiah*
George Frideric Handel 1685-1759

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40:5)

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5.2-4

THE PROPHET MICAH FORETELLS THE GLORY OF LITTLE BETHLEHEM.

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.

All STAND

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Philip Brooks 1835-93

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 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.</p> <p>2 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.</p> | <p>3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
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.</p> <p>4 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.</p> |
|---|---|

All SIT

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1. 26-35, 38

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED 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 forever, 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. 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.

CAROL

I Sing of a Maiden
Alison Willis b.1971

Sung by the Choir

I sing of a maiden
That is matchless,
King of all kings
For her son she chose.

He came as still
Where his mother was
As dew in April
That falls on the grass.

He came as still
To his mother's bower
As dew in April
That falls on the flower.

He came as still
Where his mother lay
As dew in April
That falls on the spray.

Mother and maiden
There was never, ever one but
she;
Well may such a lady
God's mother be.

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1.18-23

ST MATTHEW TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the

Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Thanks be to God.

All SIT
CAROL
Lully Lulla
Kenneth Leighton 1872-1958
Sung by the choir

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child
By, by, lully, lullay

O, sisters too
How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling
For whom we do sing
By, by, lully lullay?

That woe is me
Poor child for thee!
And every morn and day
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

Herod the king
In his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might
In his own sight
All young children to slay

All STAND

HYMN

O Come all ye Faithful

Latin 18th century, Tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 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:
<i>O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the
Lord!</i></p> | <p>3 Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and
love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
<i>O come, ...</i></p> |
| <p>2 God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
<i>O come, ...</i></p> | <p>4 Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
<i>O come, ...</i></p> |

All SIT

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2.8-16

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER.

Now in that same 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 Savior, 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.

CAROL

The Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter b.1945

Sung by the Choir

Going through the hills on a night all
starry
On the way to Bethlehem
Far away I heard a shepherd boy
piping
On the way to Bethlehem

Angels in the sky brought this
message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the
newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth
And He's lying cradled there at
Bethlehem."

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so
merrily
On the way to Bethlehem
Who will hear your tunes on these
hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?"

Angels in the sky brought this
message nigh:
"Dance and sing for the joy that
Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring peace on earth
And He's lying cradled there at
Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these
hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet
lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on
high
Hovered over the manger where the
babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother
Mary
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2.1-11

THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

All STAND and during this hymn a collection will be taken

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter
Christina Rossetti 1830-94

- 1 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.
- 2 Our God, Heaven cannot hold
Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee
away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable
place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus
Christ.
- 3 Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a
mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall
down before,
The ox and ass and camel which
adore.
- 4 Angels and archangels may have
gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged
the air;
But only His mother, in her maiden
bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a
kiss.
- 5 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.

All SIT
CAROL

Puer Nobis

Richard Rodney Bennett 1936-2012

Sung by the Choir

Given not lent,
and not withdrawn once sent,
this Infant of mankind, this One
is still the little welcome Son.

E'en as the cold
keen winter grows not old,
as childhood is so fresh, foreseen,
and spring in the familiar green.

New ev'ry year,
new-born and newly dear,
he comes with tidings and a song,
the ages long, the ages long.

Sudden as sweet
come the expected feet,
all joy is young, and new all art,
and He too, whom we have by heart.

All STAND

NINTH LESSON

John 1.1-14.

ST 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. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

All remain STANDING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 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:
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.</i></p> | <p>2 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 Emmanuel:
<i>Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.</i></p> |
|---|--|

- 3** 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.*

All TURN towards the WEST END
BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into
one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill,
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessings of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you this Christmastide and always.

All **Amen**

*All remain STANDING as the choir returns to the vestry after which you are invited to be
seated for the organ VOLUNTARIES*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata - Marcel Lanquetuit (1894-1985)

May you have a happy Christmas and blessed New Year.

Copyright acknowledgement:

Material included in this service from Common Worship is copyright: The Archbishop's Council 2000
All hymns and music are reproduced under CCLI Licence No. and MRL License No. as listed below.

Contact Us:

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Registered Charity 1135432

5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX

0114 230 1199

administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

The Church Copyright Licence number is 54701;

The Music Reproduction Licence number is 54701;

The CCLA Church Licence number is 2115253

