

Christmas Carol Service



of the joint Benefice of All Saints with All Hallows,
Wellingborough



In case of an accident during the service if there is a trained medic in church they should take control and others should remain in their seats. A churchwarden should call for an ambulance if needed and the accident book should be filled in. The service will continue as normal if at all possible.

The service begins with the church in semi-darkness, as we wait for Christ, the light of the world.

During the service please stand only for the carols which we sing together, and remain seated for the choir carols which are sung by the choir.

INTROIT Come, tune your cheerful voice

CAROL

1st verse solo only, then all sing the remaining verses.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 4 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.

- 5 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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895) HymnQuest ID: 59729

WELCOME & BIDDING PRAYER

CAROL

- 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, good will 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 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 all the world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) HymnQuest ID: 55849

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3.8-14 – The Fall

CAROL

- 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.
- 2 O morning stars, together
 proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the King,
 and peace upon the earth.
 For Christ is born of Mary;
 and, gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep
 their watch of wond'ring love.
- 3 How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 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.
- 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.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) HymnQuest ID: 48628

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22.1-19 – The Promise to Abraham

ANTHEM Schram, *Pacem Christus Natus Est*

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9.2,6,7 – The Prophecy of the Messiah’s birth

CAROL

1 Like a candle flame,
 flick’ring small in our darkness,
 uncreated light shines
 through infant eyes.

Men *God is with us, alleluia,*
Women *God is with us, alleluia,*
Men *come to save us, alleluia,*
Women *come to save us,*
All *alleluia!*

2 Stars and angels sing,
 yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
 can this tiny spark
 set a world on fire?

3 Yet his light shall shine
 from our lives, Spirit blazing,
 as we touch the flame
 of his holy fire.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1998 Make Way Music, HymnQuest ID: 56997

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11.1-9

The Prophecy of the Messiah’s Kingdom of Peace

ANTHEM Ding dong merrily on high

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1.26-38 – The Annunciation to Mary

CAROL

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
 Let nothing you dismay,
 For Jesus Christ our Saviour,
 Was born upon this Day
 To save us all from Satan’s power
 When we were gone astray.

Refrain *O tidings of comfort and joy,*
 comfort and joy;
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

2 From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

3 Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
The holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.

Anonymous, HymnQuest ID: 53515

SERMON by the Child Bishop of Wellingborough

CAROL

1 See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below;
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years.

Refrain *Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

2 Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.

3 Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

4 Teach, O teach us, holy child,
by they face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee
in thy sweet humility.

Edward Caswall (1814-1878) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd, HymnQuest ID: 81266

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 1.18-23 – The Birth of Emmanuel

ANTHEM Perry, *Come and hear the joyful singing*

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2.8-16 – The Shepherds go to the Manger

CAROL

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

Composer unknown, HymnQuest ID: 50822

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2.1-11 – The Magi are led by the Star to Jesus

CAROL

- 1 Every star shall sing a carol;
 Every creature, high or low,
 Come and praise the King of Heaven,
 By whatever name you know:
- Refrain *God above, Man below,
 Holy is the name I know.*
- 2 When the King of all creation
 Had a cradle on the earth,
 Holy was the human body,
 Holy was the human birth:
- 3 Who can tell what other cradle
 High above the milky way
 Still may rock the King of Heaven
 On another Christmas Day?

- 4 Who can count how many crosses
Still to come or long ago
Crucify the King of Heaven?
Holy is the name I know:
- 5 Who can tell what other body
He will hallow for his own?
I will praise the son of Mary,
Brother of my blood and bone:
- 6 Every star and every planet,
Every creature high and low,
Come and praise the King of Heaven,
By whatever name you know.

Sydney Carter (1915-2004) © 1961 Stainer & Bell Ltd. HymnQuest ID: 52423

Please stand for the last lesson.

Reader 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

All Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

Reader From eternity to eternity you are God,

All and now we see you as a new-born child.

Reader The Lord be with you,

All and also with you.

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

NINTH LESSON John 1.1-14 – The Incarnation of the Word of God

CAROL

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

- 3 '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:
- 4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'
- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
- 6 'All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
good-will henceforth from heav'n to all
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652-1715) HymnQuest ID: 64235

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

CAROL

- 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:
- Refrain *O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
- 2 God of God, Light of light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
- 3 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
- 4 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Composer unknown, HymnQuest ID 58575