

The ministers enter. The congregation please remain seated.

OPENING CAROL

- Solo 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.

WELCOME & BIDDING PRAYER

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:
*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:
Chorus

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?
Chorus

4 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'
Chorus

*attr. to John Francis Wade (1711-1786) Etienne Jean Francois Borderies ((1764-1832) William Mercer (1811-1873),
Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917) and others
HymnQuest ID: 58575, (from: Carols for Choirs 1 pg. 88)*

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3.8-14

ANTHEM German Trad: How great our joy

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22.1-19

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 to-night.
- 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 wondering love.
- 3 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.
- 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: 58995 (from: Carols for Choirs 1 pg. 92)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9.2,6-7

CHOIR ANTHEM Medieval Trad: Gaudete

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11.1-9

CAROL

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing 'alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born'. Christ, the Saviour is born'.
- 3 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.

Lyrics: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

HymnQuest ID: 80942

*Music : arr. Colin Mawby (1936- 2019) © 1991 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Used with permission
(from Carols Old and New pg.230)*

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1.26-38

SERMON by Alyssa Lyman, Child Bishop of Wellingborough

CAROL

The first verse is sung by children and high voices only.

- 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.

*Sometimes attr. John Thomas Macfarland (1851-1913), Gabriel's Vineyard Songs (1892 Louisville)
HymnQuest ID: 50822 (from: Carols for Choirs 1 pg. 2)*

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 1.18-23

CHOIR ANTHEM arr. Wood: Ding Dong! Merrily on High

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2.8-16

PRAYERS, COLLECT & THE LORD'S PRAYER

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2.1-11

CHOIR ANTHEM Rutter: Sans Day Carol

NINTH LESSON John 1.1-14

We remain standing.

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

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

From eternity to eternity you are God.

And now we see you as the new-born child.

The Lord be with you,

and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 heaven'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 heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering 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 the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) HymnQuest ID: 55849 (from: Carols for Choirs 1 pg. 59)

BLESSING

FINAL CAROL

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.'

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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, th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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.*

*Charles Wesley, (1707-1788), George Whitfield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1726-1790)
HymnQuest ID: 53955 (from: Carols for Choirs 1 pg. 39)*

The ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Jacques Lemmens: Fanfare

Played by Tony Edwards, Director of Music of All Hallows Church, Wellingborough.

The people depart.

All Saints and All Hallows, Wellingborough

phone: 01933 278484

email: officeallsaints@btinternet.com
officeallhallows@btinternet.com

website: allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk