



Welcome to the  
**The Church of St James the Greater**  
Leicester



Service of  
**Nine Lessons and Carols**  
19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Officiant: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar  
Director of Music: Michael Rule  
Organist: Guy Steed

Welcome to the Church of Saint James the Greater for our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Our thanks go out to Mike Rule, Guy Steed and all of the choir for their efforts in putting together this service under current conditions.

Present restrictions mean there will not be an Offertory as part of our worship this evening. To allow you to show your appreciation of the wonderful music you will listen to over the next hour or so, you'll find collection bowls on the tables at the back of church. We know that the pandemic continues to challenge all of us and any contribution you are able to make to help St. James continue its matchless musical tradition is truly appreciated by all of us.

**COVID-19 restrictions require that face masks be worn in the church.**

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*As the lights dim, please stand*

**Carol**

*verses 1 & 2 sung by the choir*

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 mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**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.**

**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.**

**Bidding Prayer**     The Reverend Andrew Quigley

*followed by*  
**The Lord's Prayer**



**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!**

**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 give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson**     *Isaiah 9. 2, 6 – 7 Prophecy of the Messiah's birth  
read by Mike Rule – Director of Music*

**Carol:**         **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:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Choir only**     *From God our heav'nly Father ...*  
**All**                 *O tidings of comfort and joy ...*

**The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway,  
The blessed babe to find:  
O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

*Choir only*  
**All**

But when to Bethlehem they came ...  
**O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

**Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

**4<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Micah 5. 2-4 The Messiah from Bethlehem  
*read by William Woolley – Server*

**Choir** The Holly and the Ivy *arr Walford Davies*

**5<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 1. 2, 6 – 35, 38 The Annunciation to Mary  
*Read by Caroline Beardsmore – PCC member*

**Choir** The Angel Gabriel *Traditional*

**6<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 2. 1, 3 – 7 Luke tells of the birth of Jesus  
*read by Jennifer Clegg – PCC Secretary*

**Choir** In the bleak midwinter *Darke*

**7<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 2. 8 – 16 The Shepherds go to the Manger  
*read by April Rule - Churchwarden*

**Carol** **While shepherds watched  
Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around**

**"Fear not," he said,  
For mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind,**

**"To you in David's  
Town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign**

**"The heavenly Babe  
You there shall find  
To human view displayed  
And meanly wrapped  
In swathing bands  
And in a manger laid**

**Thus spake the seraph,  
And forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song**

**"All glory be to  
God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth  
From heaven to men  
Begin and never cease**

**8<sup>th</sup> Lesson**     Matthew 2. 1 – 11 Magi are led by the star to Jesus  
*read by Simon Edwards - Churchwarden*

**Choir**             Star Carol                                     *Rutter*

*Please stand for the remainder of the service*

**9<sup>th</sup> Lesson**     John 1. 1 – 14 The great mystery of the Incarnation  
*read by The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar*

**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,  
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,  
Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
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,  
Christ the Lord.**

### **Prayers & Blessing**

**Carol**      **Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!"**

**Christ by highest heav'n 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**

**Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"**

**Organ Voluntary**

Dieu parmi nous.

*Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)*

**Collection baskets for donations are on the back tables in church.**

**Please be as generous as your means allow.**

### **SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS 2021 AND NEW YEAR 2022**

<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4.00 pm	Family Carols
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Service followed by Communion
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30 am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	6.30 pm	Epiphany Carol Service
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	6.30 pm	Candlemas Service

**Please take this leaflet away with you at the end of the service.**

To find out more about the Christian faith and way of life or  
to seek spiritual direction please contact us.  
For information on our choirs please contact the Director of Music



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