
Carol Service Christmas 2023

St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith



A retiring collection will be taken at the end of the service to support the work of two local charities, Glass Door and The Upper Room, which provide help for refugees, migrants and those who are homeless here in London. We hope you will give generously.

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

Please remain seated for the first two verses

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.

Choir 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.

All Stand **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.**

Welcome and opening prayer

Choir

*'Adam lay ybounden'
(Boris Ord)*

First Lesson

*Isaiah 9.2, 6-7
'The child of God, the Prince of Peace, is foretold'
read by William Illingworth*

Choir

*'All this time'
(Walton)*

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

All

**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.**

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

Second Lesson

Luke 1.26-38

'The Annunciation to Mary'

read by Vesper Roberts

Choir

'I saw a maiden'

Basque Noël (arr. Pettman)

Carol: It came upon the midnight clear

All

**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 heaven's all-gracious King.'
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**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.**

**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.**

Third Lesson

Luke 2.1-7
'The birth of Jesus'
read by Yin Chia

Choir

'The Infant King'
Basque Noël (arr. Willcocks)

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2.8-19

'The adoration of the Shepherds'

read by Marie-Pierre Moine

Choir

'Its Brightness Knowing'

Riognach Sachs

& 'Masters in this hall'

French carol, trad. (arr. Willcocks)

Carol: While shepherds watched

All **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, said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind.
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
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.**

**The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All 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;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease!**

Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2.1-12
'The visit of the Magi'
read by Emma Bruce

Choir

'Sans Day Carol'
Cornish carol (arr. Rutter)

Please stand for the Sixth Lesson

John 1.1-14
'The Eternal Word'
read by the Revd Charles Clapham

Carol: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

All

**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 Emmanuel:**

*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!*

Prayers

Lead by the Revd Charles Clapham

Choir

'In the bleak midwinter'
Harold Darke (1888-1976)

The Blessing

May the eagerness of the shepherds,
the joy of the angels,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child,
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God Almighty;
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**

Carol: O come, all ye faithful

All

**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...

**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...

**Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child,
bring our hearts' oblations**

O come let us adore him...

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God in the highest!**

O come let us adore him...

A retiring collection will be taken to support the work of two local charities, Glass Door and The Upper Room, which provide help for refugees, migrants and those who are homeless here in London.

To make a donation, you can use the credit card readers as you leave, or scan the QR code with your mobile phone.



If you would like to donate cash, plates are available at the exit; if you are a tax payer, do please use a yellow envelope so that we can reclaim tax on your behalf.

Please give generously.

Christmas at St Peter's Church:

Christmas Eve (24th December)

4.30 pm Crib Service

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (25th December)

10.30 am All Age Communion