

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL
Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia
Parish Church of the City since 1846



Matthias Stom (1600 – 1652) *The Adoration of the Shepherds*

**A FESTIVAL OF
NINE LESSONS AND
CAROLS**

7pm, Sunday 2nd January 2022

About Tonight's Liturgy

The carols sung at tonight's Festival of Lessons and Carols, and throughout the subsequent liturgical seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, have deep roots in the tradition of Christian worship. The origin of carol singing, however, is pagan and the word derives from "*koros*" a circle of dancers and singers that complemented the dialogue of the Attic drama of ancient Greece. It was only by the grudging consent of the medieval Catholic Church that Christian carols took root in Europe, but by the beginning of the fifteenth century carol singing had become an integral element of seasonal worship. The seventeenth-century Puritan regime of Oliver Cromwell went on to ban carols, and even the celebration of Christmas itself, but they were preserved and augmented in the New World, and eventually restored as a beloved tradition in Britain.

While the terms "carol" and "hymn" may occasionally overlap, the two genres are in fact different. Hymn texts tend to didacticism, while the purpose of the carol - one that stems from its medieval analogue, the mystery play - is narrative. For unlettered folk of the Middle Ages, the carol, like a stained glass panel or a fresco tableau, depicted the momentous event of Christ's Incarnation. And, in honor of the saint who may well be called the father of the Christian ode to joy, Francis of Assisi, the nature of most carols is both "hilarious" (joyous) and reverential.

Centuries ago carol singing was celebrated over several seasons of the Church year. The custom has come, however, to be associated only with the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The tradition of the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" was established in England - as the adaptation of an earlier service - on Christmas Eve, 1918, in the chapel of Kings College, Cambridge, for the university community and for the City of Cambridge. This wonderful tradition has been duplicated in cathedrals and churches throughout the world ever since.

St Peter's Eastern Hill is a lively Anglo-Catholic church;
we would love to see you again.

For our Sunday Mass times and other information see:

www.stpeters.org.au

The Director of Music is Andrew Raiskums, assisted by Sue Wuttke; our organist is Rhys Arvidson; we welcome tonight members of Gloriana Chamber Choir.

**Please ensure that your mobile phone is turned OFF for
the duration of the service.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

*All congregational carols and responses are printed in **bold**. Please stand to sing the processional carol, joining in from the second verse.*

CAROL – Once in Royal David's City

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.**

**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.**

NEH 34

Words: C. F. Alexander (1818-95)

Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-76);
rev. A. H. Mann (1850-1929)

Descant: Sir David Willcocks

Please remain standing for the bidding prayer led by Bishop David Farrer, Locum of St Peter's.

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels; to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated for the first lesson, read by Katie Richardson.

FIRST LESSON

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

The man and the woman heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated.

CAROL – Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all: but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Text: Richard Hutchins (1761)
Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Please remain seated for the second lesson, read by Arthur Thomas.

SECOND LESSON

God's promise to faithful Abraham.

GENESIS 22:15-18

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.

Please remain seated.

CAROL – I wonder as I wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour, did come for to die.
For poor ornery people like you and like I:
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,^{[L] [SEP]}
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.^{[L] [SEP]}
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,^{[L] [SEP]}
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:^{[L] [SEP]}
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing:^{[L] [SEP]}
Or all of God's angels in heav'n to sing:^{[L] [SEP]}
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King!

Words & Music: trad. Appalachian carol
arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

Please remain seated for the third lesson, read by Shanti Michael.

THIRD LESSON

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

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. His authority shall grow continually, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated.

CAROL – Threshold of Night

Who stands at my door
In the storm and rain
On the threshold of being?
One who waits till you call him in
From the empty night.

Are you a stranger, out in the storm,
Or has my enemy found me out
On the edge of being?

I am no stranger
Who stands at the door
Nor enemy come in the secret night,
I am your child, in darkness and fear
On the verge of being.

Go back, my child,
To the rain and storm,
For in this house
There is sorrow and pain
In the lonely night.

I will not go back for sorrow or pain,
For my true love weeps within
And waits for my coming.

Go back, my babe, to the vacant night
For in this house dwell sin and hate
On the verge of being.

I will not go back for hate or sin,
I will not go back for sorrow or pain,
For my true love mourns within
On the threshold of night

Words: Kathleen Raine (1908-2003)
from *Three Poems of Incarnation*
Music: Tarik O'Regan (b.1978)

Please stand for the congregational carol.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL – O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wond'ring love.

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.

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.

NEH 32 (1-3, 5)

Words: Bp Phillips Brooks

Music: Melody by Lewis Redner; harmonisation by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Descant by Thomas Armstrong

Please be seated for the fourth lesson, read by Alae Taule'alo.

FOURTH LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ISAIAH 11: 1-4, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young

shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated.

CAROL – Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen aus einer
Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen von Jesse
kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter, wohl zu der
halben Nacht.
Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon
Jesaias sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die
reine Magd:
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren wohl zu der
halben Nacht.
Das Blümelein so kleine, das duftet uns
so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine vertreibt
die Finsternis.
Wahr'r Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide, rettet von
Sünd' und Tod.

*A Rose there is aspringing from tender roots
on earth;
As ancient men were singing, from Jesse came
its birth
And now this little flow'r appears in coldest
winter
At this, the midnight hour.
This rose, the stem of Jesse, by prophets once
foretold;
Mary alone has brought us The Child
promised of old.
By God's eternal pow'r The Maid has borne
the infant
At this, the midnight hour.
The flow'r so small and slender shines thro'
with radiance bright;
To us so sweet and tender dispels the darkest
night.
True Man with God's true pow'r, helps us
from all our suff'ring,
Saves us from death's dark hour.*

16th-century hymn of German origin arr. Michael
Praetorius (v.1) (1571-1621) and Donald Cashmore
(v.2 & 3) (1926-2013)

Please remain seated.

CAROL – Gabriel’s Message

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
‘All hail’ said he ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady’. Gloria!
2. ‘For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady’. Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
‘To me be as it pleaseth God’, she said,
‘My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name’.
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
‘Most highly favoured lady’. Gloria!

Text:: paraphrased by Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Music: Basque Carol arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

Please remain seated for the fifth lesson, read by Anne Scott Pendlebury.

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel’s annunciation to Mary.

LUKE 1: 26-35, 38

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 for ever, 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.

Please remain seated.

CAROL - Hymn to the Mother of God

In you, O woman full of grace,
the angelic choirs and the human race,
all creation rejoices. O sanctified temple,
mystical paradise, and glory of virgins.
In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices.

Text: from the Liturgy of St Basil
Music: Sir John Tavener (1944-2013)

Please remain seated for the sixth lesson, read by Daniel Ferguson.

SIXTH LESSON

St Luke's account of the birth of Jesus.

LUKE 2: 1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated.

CAROL - Nesciens mater
Nesciens mater virgo virum,
peperit sine dolore salvatorem
saeculorum,
ipsum regem angelorum;
sola virgo lactabat, ubere de caelo
pleno.

*The virgin mother, knowing no man,
gave birth without pangs to the saviour of
world,
the very king of angels;
the virgin alone gave him suck with the milk
of heaven.*

Text: Christmastide Antiphon
Music: Jean Mouton (c.1459-1522)

Please remain seated for the seventh lesson, read by Carol O'Connor.

SEVENTH LESSON

The angels proclaim good news to the shepherds.

LUKE 2: 8-16

In that 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 Saviour, 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 – Quelle est cette odeur agréable?

Quelle est cette odeur agréable,
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens ?
S'exhale-t-il rien de semblable
Au milieu des fleurs du printemps
Quelle est cette odeur agréable
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens ?

Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux
L'astre de jour, dans sa carrière,
Fut-il jamais si radieux!
Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux.

A Bethléem, dans une crèche
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur
Allons, que rien ne vous empêche
D'adorer votre rédempteur
A Bethléem, dans une crèche,
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur.

Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux.
Que la paix soit universelle
Que la grâce a bonde en tous lieux.
Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux

*Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come a blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing
Stealing our senses all away?*

*What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes,
Never so bright the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes,*

*Bethlehem! There in the manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! There in the manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,*

*Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace,
May peace abide in ev'ry nation,
Goodwill in men of ev'ry race.
Praise to the Lord, of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace.*

French traditional carol
arr. Sir David Willcocks and Andrew Raiskums

Please stand for the offertory carol, during which a collection will be taken.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL – The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay,
keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

NEH 33 Words: traditional English carol, seventeenth century
Music: English traditional arr. David Willcocks

Please be seated for the eighth lesson, read by Fr Ken Letts.

EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

MATTHEW 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising 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.

CAROL – In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:

In the bleak mid-winter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

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.

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 can I give him,
Give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti
Music: Harold Darke

Please stand for the ninth lesson, read by Bishop David Farrer.

NINTH LESSON

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

ST JOHN 1:1-14

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 overcome 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.

Remain standing for the congregational carol.

CAROL – O come, all ye faithful
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.

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

NEH 30

Words: Latin 18th Century, trans. F. Oakeley (1802-80) and others.

Music: melody probably by J. F. Wade (1711-86);
descant version by Sir David Willcocks

Bp Farrer: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Bp Farrer: Let us pray.

All kneel.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

ALmighty GOD, who gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary: grant that we being born again, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand for the recessional carol.

CAROL – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**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 newborn 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 God-head 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 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 newborn King***

NEH 26

Words: Charles Wesley and others

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Postlude: J. S. Bach (1685-1750) *In dir ist Freude* (BWV 615).

You are warmly invited to the Parish Hall after the service for hospitality.