



*Service of  
Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday 19th December 2021*

*10.00 am*

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Welcome to our Service of Lessons and Carols this year.*

*We bid a special welcome to those of you who are visitors with us today and to Mrs Joan Nelson who is conducting the Service.*

*Our readings and carols recall the events surrounding the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*The scripture readings will be read by our Parish Readers.*

*The Service proceeds without announcements*

*With so much uncertainty, and unrest in our world today, it is all the more important to hear and to receive the Good News of the hope and promise of God, who sent his Son into our world, to bring us peace and joy.*

*May you know His peace and His joy  
this Christmas-time.*



# Order of Service

Organ Voluntaries :

*Catherine Irwin*

## Hymn 177

*Solo*

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.

*All*

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.

*All*

5. 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.

*All:*

6. 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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances (Fanny) Alexander (1818-95) altd.

## Advent Candle Lighting

The Fourth Advent Candle is lit.  
*'The Candle of Love'*



## Bidding Prayer

### First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Read by: *Nick Hambly*  
Parish Reader

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**Hymn 163**

**Choir only**

**'Infant holy, infant lowly.'**

Polish Traditional Carol  
*Tr. Edith M..G. Reed(1885-1933)*

**Second Reading**

Isaiah 11: 1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Read by: *Sarah Maguire*  
Parish Reader

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

### **HYMN 161**

I know a rose-tree springing  
forth from an ancient root,  
as prophets once were singing.  
From Jesse came the shoot  
that bore a blossom bright  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

This rose-tree, blossom laden,  
whereof Isaiah spake,  
is Mary, purest maiden,  
who mothered for our sake,  
the little child, new-born  
by God's eternal counsel  
on that first Christmas morn.

Traditional Rhineland Carol (c. 15th Century)  
tr. *Harriet Spaeth* (1845-1925)

### **Third Reading**

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Read by: *Nick Hambly*  
Parish Reader.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

## HYMN 174

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 to all 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 Child enters in.

Words: *Philip Brooks* (1835-93)  
Music: *H. Walford Davies* (1869-1941)

## Fourth Reading

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Read by: *Sarah Maguire*  
Parish Reader

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## Hymn 182

*Solo*

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.

*All*

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

*All*

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.

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

tr. *J.F. Young (1820-85)*

Read by: *Nick Hambly*  
Parish Reader

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**Hymn 147**

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation’s story  
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

*Come and worship  
Christ the new-born King,  
come and worship worship  
Christ, the new-born King!*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o’er their flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:

5. Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father’s throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:



Read by: *Sarah Maguire*  
Parish Reader.

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**HYMN 162**

1. In the bleak mid-winter frosty winds 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.

2. 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.

5. 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 I can I give him, give my heart.

Music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)  
Words by Christina Rossetti (1830-93)

*(Please remain standing for the Gospel Reading)*

Read by: *Mrs Joan Nelson*

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Saint John, chapter 1, beginning to read at verse 1.*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**REFLECTION**

**The 4th Sunday of Advent.**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
Grant that, as she looked for his coming  
as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Advent Collect.**

Almighty God,  
Give us grace to cast away the works of  
darkness and to put on the armour of light  
now in the time of this mortal life  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to  
us in great humility;  
that on the last day  
when he shall come again in his glorious  
majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and Heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

## Hymn 160

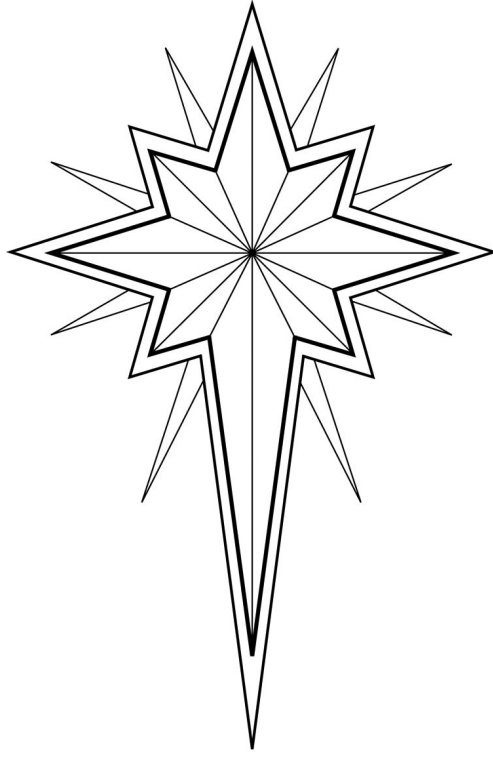
*1. Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem':*

*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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel:
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 we no more may die;  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth:

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)  
Based on Luke 2: 1-20*

**Organ Voluntaries.**



CHRISTMAS

Joy



THE PARISH OFFICE

will be closed over Christmas  
(23rd until 28th December 2021).

For urgent Pastoral Care issues—please contact

Dean Kenneth Hall of St MACARTIN 's Cathedral  
on 02866 322465