



ROSSORRY
PARISH CHURCH



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

*Service of
Six Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday 18th December 2022
7pm*

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

We bid a special welcome to those of you who are visitors with us this evening.

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

The scripture readings will be read by members of our parish .

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 :

MRS. CATHERINE IRWIN

Hymn 1

Choir 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:

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 should be
kind, obedient, good as he.

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.

BIDDING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Read by:- Rev. Isobel Nixon

*The first lesson is written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
in the ninth chapter beginning at the second verse.*

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

You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

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 Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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 for ever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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CHOIR ANTHEM

‘For unto us a child is born’

Handel

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11: 1-9 - The Prophecy of the Messiah’s Kingdom of Peace

Read by: Sarah Maguire

*The second lesson is written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
in the eleventh chapter beginning at the first verse.*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

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 –

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;

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.

Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash round his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra’s den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.

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.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour
the darkness ev'rywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Traditional 15th Cent. Carol

THIRD LESSON Matthew 1: 18-25 - The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Read by: Lucia & Aimee Turner.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

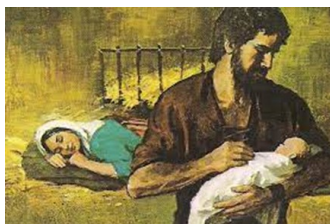
CANTICLE**MAGNIFICAT** - *The Song of the Virgin Mary*

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
2 who has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
3 the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
4 God has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
5 The Lord has shown strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
6 casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
7 God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
8 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel
to remember the promise of mercy,
9 The promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

READING (Poem) *'Joseph's Lullaby'* by Ron Klug

Read by: Nick Hambly.



Sleep now, little one.
I will watch while you and your mother
sleep.
I wish I could do more.
This straw is not good enough for you.
Back in Nazareth I'll make a proper bed
for you
of seasoned wood, smooth, strong,
well-pegged,
a bed fit for a carpenter's Son.

Just wait till we get back to Nazareth
I'll teach you everything I know.
You'll learn to use cedar wood,
eucalyptus and fir.
You'll learn to use a draw, axe and saw.
Your arms will grow strong and your
hands rough - like these.
You'll bear the pungent smell of new
wood
and wear shavings and sawdust in your
hair.
You'll be a man whose life centres on
hammer and nails and wood.
But for now,
Sleep, little Jesus, sleep.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

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The Birth of Jesus

Read by: Hilary Pringle.

The fourth lesson is written in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew in the second chapter beginning at the first verse.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 149

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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 your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Attrib. *W.J. Kirkpatrick* (1838-1921) altd.

Read by: Matthew Graham

*The fifth lesson is written in the Gospel according to Saint Luke
in the second chapter beginning at the eighth verse.*

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

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

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’

¹⁵ 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.’

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 188

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 swaddling clothes,
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
earth
begin, and never cease.’

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Reading - (poem) Christmas Thank You s

Read by : Harry Coalter

Dear Auntie,
O, what a nice jumper.
I've always adored powder
blue
and fancy you thinking of
orange and pink
for the stripes
how clever of you!

Dear Uncle,
the soap is
Terrific,
so useful
and such a kind thought
and
how did you guess that
I'd just used the last of
the soap that last
Christmas brought.

Dear Gran,
many thanks for the
Hankies.
Now I really can't wait for
the flu,
and the daisies
embroidered
in red round the 'M'
for Michael,
how
thoughtful of you!

Dear Cousin, what socks!
and the same sort you
wear.
So you must be
the last word in style
and I'm certain you're
right that the
luminous green
will make me stand out a
mile.

Dear Sister,
I quite understand your
concern,
it's a risk sending jam in
the post;
but I think I've pulled out
all the big bits
of glass
so it won't taste too sharp,
spread on toast.

Dear Grandad,
don't fret.
I'm delighted.
So *don't* think your gift
will offend.
I'm not hurt at all,
that you gave up this year
and just sent me a fiver
to spend.

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.

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 with us, abide with us,
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

Words: *Philip Brooks* (1835-93)

Music: *H. Walford Davies* (1869-1941)

SIXTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14 - The Christmas Gospel

Read by: Rev. Stephen Mc Whirter

*The sixth lesson is written in the Gospel according to Saint John,
in the first chapter beginning at the first verse.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

¹⁴ 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.**Hymn 166**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt.
based on Psalm 98*

Collect

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.

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.

MRS. CATHERINE IRWIN