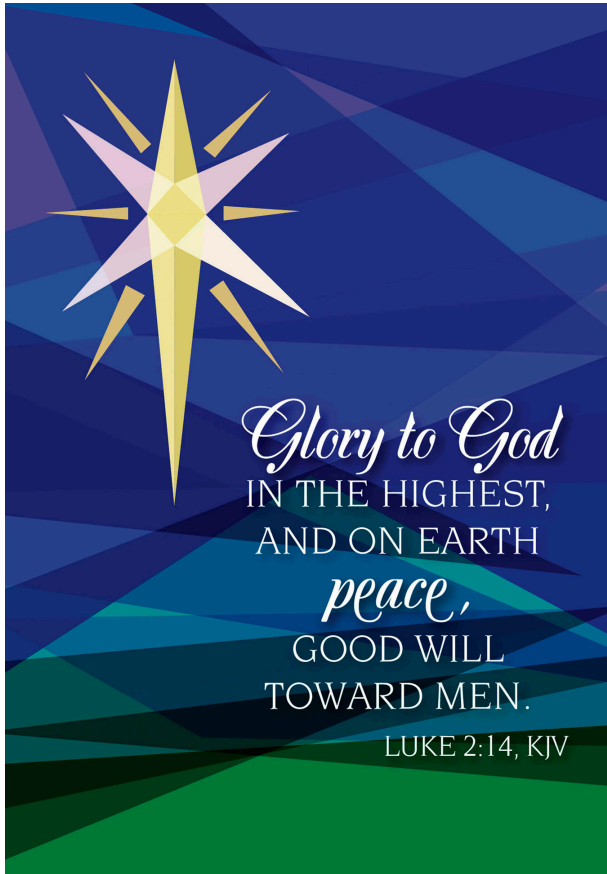


# A Christmas Service of Carols & Readings

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
at 5.30pm



**Trinity United Reformed Church**  
**Mansel Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4AA**  
[www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)

# Order of Service

**The Service will proceed without announcement**

**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.

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.

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.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (based on Luke 2:6-7)  
Tune: 'Irby', Henry Gauntlett; harmony by A H Mann*

## **Welcome & Introduction**

### **Prayer of Approach**

#### **FIRST READING**

- *Dodie Khurshid*

#### **Isaiah 9: 2,4-7    A saviour is promised**

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 the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

#### **Choir**

#### **In the bleak mid-winter**

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, Heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;  
heaven 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.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
but only His mother in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

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.

*Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1872  
Harold Darke, 1911*

## **SECOND READING**

*- Nicole Mansfield*

### **Luke 1: 26-38    Nothing is impossible with God**

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.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

For nothing will be impossible with 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.

### **"I Wonder as I Wander"**

- *Ellie Chau (flute)*

*Trad. Arr. Andrew Carter 1939-*

### **THIRD READING**

- *Eric Chau*

### **Matthew 1: 18-25    God with us**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## 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 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, Immanuel.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-93)*

## **FOURTH READING**

- Jean Jerram

### **Luke 2: 1-7 Jesus is born**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

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.

### **Christmas Lullaby**

- Cynthia Betts (oboe)

*John Rutter, 1989*

### **Choir**

### **Candlelight Carol**

How do you capture the wind on the water?  
How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother?  
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him  
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour  
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger  
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation  
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born

*John Rutter, 1984*

### **FIFTH READING**

*- Katy Collins*

### **Luke 2:8-20 The shepherds find the baby**

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.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.



But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **CAROL**

## **See in yonder manger low**

See! in yonder manger low  
born for us on earth below,  
see! the tender Lamb appears  
promised from eternal years:

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Lo! within a stable lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim:

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light:  
angels, singing "Peace on earth",  
told us of the Saviour's birth:

Sacred Infant, all Divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

*Edward Caswall (1814-78) altd.*

**SIXTH READING**  
**Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Follow the star**

- *Peter Smith*

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.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## Choir

## O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

### *Chorus*

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night divine, O night O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:  
so, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
here come the wise men from Orient land,  
the King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
in all our trials born to be our friend;

### *Chorus*

He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger!  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

*Composed by Adolphe Adam, 1847  
Arr. Peter Gritton*

## **SEVENTH READING**

- Sam Elliot

### **John 1: 1-14      God's promise to the world**

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.

## **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 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 Immanuel:

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:

*Charles Wesley (altd.)*

### **Offertory Prayer**

**(Collection in aid of Crisis the national charity for homeless people)**

**Choir**

**I wish you Christmas**

I wish you starlight on fields of snow,  
the winter's morning light and evening's glow;  
I wish you candles that shine from every tree,  
so all the world can see  
the light that there could be.

I wish you music, I wish you song,  
with voices echoing, joyous and strong;  
I wish you church bells, ringing true and clear;  
I wish you Christmas, a merry Christmas,  
a merry Christmas to remember all the year.

Old friends smiling,  
thinking of times gone by;  
young friends laughing:  
Christmas is here,  
spirits are bright,  
and hopes are high.

I wish you loved ones around your fire;  
may Christmas bring you all your heart's desire.  
I wish you children to make the season new,  
with dreams you help come true,  
just like it was for you.

I wish you blessings, I wish you love,  
the sound of angel choirs from high above;  
I wish you laughter, happiness and cheer:

I wish you Christmas, a merry Christmas,  
and may its joy and peace be with you through the year.

I wish you music, I wish you song;  
I wish you harmony your whole life long;  
the warmth of memories that long remain.  
I wish you Christmas, a merry Christmas,  
And may God bless you till we all shall meet again.

*John Rutter, 1984*

## **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:

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:

sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all yet citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God in the highest':

*Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, attrib. John F Wade (c.1711-86)  
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-800 altd.*

**Closing prayer & blessing**

- Revd Ernest Yu

**Organ postlude – “In Dulci Jubilo”**



**Director of Music**

Andrew Davies

Trumpet - Ted Riley  
Oboe - Cynthia Betts  
Flute - Ellie Chau

**Solo Singers**

Once in Royal David's City - Macy White  
O Holy Night - Ruth Carlyle & Lynne Heap

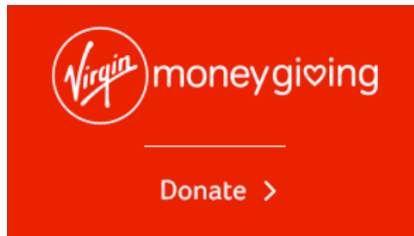
**Choir**

Soprano - Grace de Grouchy, Ruth Carlyle, Brigid Aglen,  
Susan Clark, Lynne Heap, Annie Muir & Claire Wood  
Alto - Cathy Dundee, Alison Trehearn & Su Lambert  
Tenor - Andrew Davies  
Bass - Sandy McLeish, Robin Goodchild & Roger Miller

## **Offertory for *Crisis***

*For many years now, our Christmas offerings at Trinity have been given to **Crisis**, the national charity for homeless people. **Crisis** works directly with thousands of homeless people every year, providing vital help so that they can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness for good.*

If you would like to make a donation please go to the VirginMoneyGiving button on the church website.



Alternatively, please send a cheque (payable to "Trinity URC"), to Robin Ingram, c/o Church Office, Trinity URC, Mansel Rd, SW19 4AA.

***Following this Service  
at 7.00pm  
we look forward to seeing you at  
a Christmas Get Together on Zoom.***

***Joining instructions have been emailed to  
Trinity subscribers.***