



Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

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*And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*



A FESTIVAL of NINE LESSONS and CAROLS For ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

December 17, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Officiant: The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine
Honorary Assistant: The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess
Organist & Director of Music: Robin Davis
Organists: Alison Jane & Johan van 't Hof

*Welcome to the Church of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle.
Hearing Assistance Units are available at the back of the church.*



ORGAN PRELUDE

Carol Prelude on Away in a Manger – DEREK HOLMAN Organist – Robin Davis

INTROIT

Advent Responsory (Adapted from a Magnificat) PALESTRINA

Officiant and Choir

V: I look from afar

R: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V: Go ye out to meet him and say:

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V: High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

R: Go ye out to meet him and say:

V: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

R: To reign over thy people Israel.

V: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

R: *I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

V: *Go ye out to meet him and say:*

R: *Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

HYMN

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR *Descant: David Willcocks*

All **Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.**

Women Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

men **Forth from his chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now his course to run.**

Men O equal to thy Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

All **All laud to God the Father be, all praise, eternal Son, to thee:
All glory, as is ever meet, to God the Holy Paraclete.**

Text: Saint Ambrose, transl. J.M. Neale et al.

BIDDING PRAYER – *Remain Standing.*

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, we are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's Kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his Kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope. As we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his love and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death. May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship

and praise, world without end. Finally let us offer up our prayers for the coming of Christ's Kingdom, in the words Jesus himself has taught us, saying:

All **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 them that 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.**

Officiant May the Lord when he comes, find us watching and waiting, now and at all times. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Read by Carol Peck

*God tells Adam that he has lost the life of paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife 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.'

Genesis 3: 6-15

Reader The word of the Lord. *All Thanks be to God.*

CHOIR CAROL

Adam Lay Ybounden BORIS ORD

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter, thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took.
As clerkes finden, written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
ne had never our Lady, a been heavenly Queen.

Blessed be the time, that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen. Deo gracias!

SECOND LESSON

Read by Alan Rands

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

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. *Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7.*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Descant: David Willcocks

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

POEM

Read by The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess

Advent MALCOM GUILTE

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

CHOIR CAROL

Light Triumphant Breaks DAVID BEDNALL (2022)
(Commissioned by Malcolm Archer and Winchester College)

*O people of Zion, behold, the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations: Alleluia.
And in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard. Alleluia*

*The king shall come when morning dawns; and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child to bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.*

*O brighter than the rising morn When he, victorious, rose,
And left the lonesome place of death, Despite the rage of foes,*

*O brighter than that glorious morn Shall this fair morning be,
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes, and we his face shall see.*

*The king shall come when morning dawns; and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day, that aye, shall last.
And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.*

THIRD LESSON

Read by Daphne Harris

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. *Isaiah 11: 1-10*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

The Wildwood Carol JOHN RUTTER

Jamie Coole-Stevenson – Baritone Solo

Nancy Nourse – Flautist Johan van 't Hof - Organist

Sing O the wild wood, the green holly
The silent river, the barren tree
The humble creatures that no man sees
Sing O the wild wood.

A weary journey one winter's night
No hope of shelter, no rest in sight
Who was the creature that bore Mary?
A simple donkey.

And when they came to Bethlehem town
They found a stable to lay them down
Who were their companions that silent night?
An ox and an ass.

And then an angel came down to earth
To bring the news of the Saviour's birth
The first to marvel were shepherds poor
And sheep with their lambs.

So, sing O the wild wood, the green holly
The silent river, the barren tree
The humble creatures that bore Mary
That no man sees
Sing O the wild wood.

FOURTH LESSON

Read by Kevin Sinclair

John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' *Mark 1.1-9.*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.

Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

FIFTH LESSON

Read by Isabelle Robinson

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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. *Luke 1: 26-38*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City Tune: IRBY Descant: David Willcocks

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.

CHOIR CAROL

Mary is a Lady Bright DEREK HOLMAN

Mary is a lady bright ;
Sche hath a sone of meche might ;
Over all this word sche is light.

Bona natalicia.

Mary is so fair and sote,
And her sone so full of pote ;
Over all this word he is bote.

Bona voluntaria.

Mary is so fair of face,
And her sone so full of grace ;
In hevене he make us a place,
Cum sua potencia.

Mary is bothe good and kinde ;
Evere on us sche hath mende,
That the fend schall us not schende,
Cum sua malicia,

Mary is quene of alle thinge,
And her sone a lovely kinge.
God graunt us alle good endinge !
Regnat del gratia.

SIXTH LESSON

Read by The Reverend Abraham Thomas

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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. *St Luke 2.1-7.*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High Tune: GLORIA (FRENCH)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King. *Refrain*

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

POEM

Read by Peggy Needham

Christmas Eve CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

Christmas has a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas has a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas has a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven has answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

CHOIR CAROL

Noël Nouvelet Arr. PETER HERFORD

Sophie Knowles – Soprano Solo Ian Speck – Tenor Solo

Noël nouvelet, Noël, chan-an-tons ici,
Dé-évotés gens, crions à-à Dieu merci !
Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
[Let us sing Noel, let us sing Noel here!
Pious people, let us cry to God for mercy!
Let us sing Noel for the new little King!
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.]

D'un oiselet après le chant ouï,
Qui aux pasteurs disait: "Partez d'ici"
En Bethléem trouvèrent l'agnelet
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
[Afterwards I heard the song of a little bird
Who was saying to the shepherds: "Go from here."
In Bethlehem they found the little lamb.
Noël, etc.]

En Bethléem, Marie et Joseph vis,
L'âne et le boeuf, l'Enfant couché au lit,
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
In Bethlehem I saw Mary and Joseph,
The ox and the ass, the child laid on its bed,
The manger was in place of a little crib.
Noël, etc.]

L'Etoile y vis, qui la nuit éclairait,
Qui d'Orient, dont il était sorti,
En Bethléem, les trois rois amenait.

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
[The Star I saw, which lit up the sky,
That from the Orient, whence it had come,
Was leading the three kings to Bethlehem.

Noël, etc.]

L'un portait l'or, et l'autre myrrhe aussi
Et l'autre encens, qui faisait bon senti,
De paradis semblait le jardinet,
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
[ne carried gold, and the other myrrh,
And the other incense, that smelled so good;
Of paradise it seemed the little garden.

Noël, etc.]

SEVENTH LESSON

Read by Mary Martin

The shepherds visit the baby in the manger.

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. *Luke 2:8-16*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

Christmas Day (Choral Fantasy on Old Carols) GUSTAV HOLST
Virginia Gallop – Alto Solo Jamie Coole Stevenson – Baritone Solo
Robert Busiakiewicz – Guest Conductor Robin Davis – Organist

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from woe and sin,
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon that holy morn;
The which His Mother, Mary,
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The first Nowell, the angels 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.
Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Come, your circle round him closing,
Pious hearts that love the Lord.
Come, ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore.
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor.
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;

Good Christian friends rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.

EIGHTH LESSON

Read by Larry Krotz

The Magi Follow the Star to Bethlehem.

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.

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

During the singing of the next hymn, the candles will be lit.

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

All Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!

Women O that birth forever blessed,
when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Men O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
angel hosts, his praises sing:
powers, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

All Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.

Please stand for the reading of the Ninth Lesson.

NINTH LESSON

Read by The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Saint John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

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. *John 1: 1-14*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to extinguish your candle.

HYMN

(vs 1-4) O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: ADESTE FIDELES Descant: David Willcocks

During the hymn a collection will be taken. Thank you for your support.

Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
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, *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest. *Refrain*

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

THE COLLECT

Officiant We wait for thy Loving kindness, O God.

People **In the Midst of thy Temple.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray. *You are invited to kneel.*

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Officiant Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Tune: MENDELSSOHN Descant: David Willcocks
Robin Davis – Organist

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

POSTLUDE

Trio Super Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland [Come now Redeemer] BWV 660 J S BACH
Robin Davis – Organist

*Please join us after the service for refreshments in the Parish Hall.
We look forward to meeting you.*

Cover Art: The stained glass window at the exit of the Church of St. Catherine
that is attached to the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, Israel.

Ayodeji Malcolm Guite (born 12 November 1957) is an English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest and academic. Born in Nigeria to British expatriate parents, Guite earned degrees from Cambridge and Durham universities. His research interests include the intersection of religion and the arts, and the examination of the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis and Owen Barfield, and poets such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was a Bye-Fellow and chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge, and associate chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge. Guite is the author of five books of poetry, including two chapbooks and three full-length collections, as well as several books on Christian faith and theology.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (5 December 1830 – 29 December 1894) was an English writer of romantic, devotional and children's poems, including "Goblin Market" and "Remember". She also wrote the words of two Christmas carols well known in Britain: "In the Bleak Midwinter", later set by Gustav Holst, Katherine Kennicott Davis, and Harold Darke, and "Love Came Down at Christmas", also set by Darke and other composers. She was a sister of the artist and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti and features in several of his paintings.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

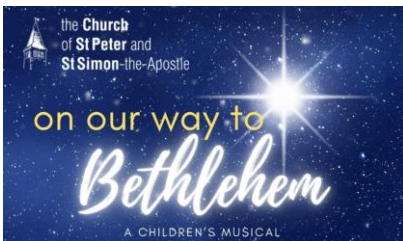
Friday, December 22 – A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, 7.00 pm
Presentation in the Church, with carols. Reception to follow.



Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors and Children
Tickets are available on Sundays and through the office.
Proceeds in aid of the Children's Homework Club.

Saturday, December 23 – Blue Christmas: A Service When Christmas is a Difficult Time 5.00 pm service in the church, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Dec. 24, Advent 4, 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist & Children's Musical "On our Way to Bethlehem" by John Jacobson & Roger Emerson, presented by the young people of SPSS joined by the St Jamestown Children's Choir.



Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist, 10:00 p.m. – Traditional Rite

We gather this Holy Night to worship in wonder at the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Mass Setting: *Messe de minuit pour Noël (Midnight mass for Christmas)* M-A Charpentier
Motet: *O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery)* James Whitbourn