

A service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight



Sunday December 19th 2021 6.30pm

Welcome to our service

We are very grateful to members of the Lea Singers, a Harpenden based chamber choir, for augmenting our own choir this evening.

When the service ends, please join us for refreshments outside.

There will be a retiring collection at the end of the service tonight. Please give generously to support the work of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please your gift in one of the blue envelopes and fill in the details so that we can claim an additional 25% from the Inland Revenue.

To keep in touch with events and news about our church, type 'St Lawrence Bovingdon' into your search engine to find our website and/or our Facebook page.

Thank you.

Christmas services at St Lawrence:

December 24th - Christmas Eve

3.00pm	Crib Service
11.00pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion

December 25th - Christmas Day

10.00am	Christmas Day Family Communion (this service will be livestreamed)
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Carol Once in Royal David's city – Choir & Congregation

Choir

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

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

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.

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.

The Bidding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Carol: Longing for a hope filled morning – congregation

Longing for a hope-filled morning,
Kingdom of the Son, draw near!
Waiting for the day soon dawning,
Light of love that casts out fear.
Dayspring, come from heav'n, in lowly birth,
Come to warm this cold, dark earth.

Sorrow through the world is sweeping,
Bitter conflict rages still,
Heaven hears its children weeping:
cost of humankind's freewill.
Come, O Prince of Peace, in lowly birth,
Come to mend this broken earth.

Pattern of the world's salvation,
God and human side by side.
Creed or colour, race or nation,
No more should the world divide:
Come, Emmanuel, in lowly birth,
Show how heav'n embraces earth.

First Lesson:

Read by a Lea Singer

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3

Choir This is the truth sent from above

Traditional English

Music: arr. Vaughan Williams

Second Lesson:

Read by a member of the Family Praise congregation

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22

Carol Hark! The herald angels sing – Congregation

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 Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.

Third Lesson:

Read by the chairman of Bovingdon Parish Council

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. Isaiah 9

Carol O little town of Bethlehem – Congregation

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.

Fourth Lesson:

Read by a Family Praise leader

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. Isaiah 11

Carol: Silent night – Congregation

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin and her
child.
Holy Infant, so tender and
mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven
afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams Thy holy face
With the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Fifth Lesson:

Read by a member of the 10.30 congregation

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke 1

Choir The angel Gabriel

Baroque Carol arr. C. Pettman

Sixth Lesson:

Read by the Director of Music

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2

Carol: It came upon the midnight clear – Congregation

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love song which they bring;
O hush the noise ye men of strife
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold.
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling;
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Seventh Lesson:

Read by the Associate Priest

The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2

Choir Coventry Carol

15th century carol

Music: arr. Martin Shaw

Eighth Lesson:

Read by a Churchwarden

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2

Address: Revd Hilary Kemp, Associate Priest

Carol What child is this? – Congregation

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Come, greet the Infant Lord,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Ninth lesson:

Read by the Vicar

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. John 1

Carol In the bleak midwinter – choir

Words: Christina Rossetti

Music: Harold Darke

Collect

Carol O come all ye faithful – Congregation

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;
 O come, let us adore him...

Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
 O come, let us adore him..

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy season,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him...

Blessing

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