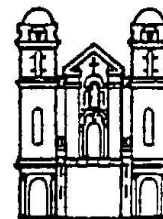


Welcome to
Church of Saint James the Greater
Leicester



Christmas Morning 2017

The Gathering

Please stand as the Choir enters.

Fr Johannes Arens welcomes everybody and introduces the Service.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy
a Saviour has been born to you.

**Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given.**

Please stand for

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A child lights the white central candle.

**The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the berry-bright red candles,
and the bright and shining king.**

**And Christ is in the centre,
for this is his birthday,
with the shining lights of Christmas,
singing: 'He has come today'.**

Please stand to sing

The Carol

Solo/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, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child who seemed so helpless
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 round,
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.**

Irby (AM81)

Melody by Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)

harmonised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929)

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818–1895)

Please sit for

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2.1–7

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.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing

The Carol

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in on the hay.**

Children only

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

All

**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 Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Please sit for

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2.8–16

The Angels appear to the Shepherds.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing

The Carol

**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 swathing bands,
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;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'**

*Winchester Old (AM89i)
Ascribed to George Kirbye (c.1565–1634)
in Thomas Este's The whole booke of psalms. 1592
Possibly derived from Christopher Tye's
The Actes of the Apostles, 1533*

*Nahum Tate (1652–1715)
based on Luke 2.1–20*

The Carol

- 1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.**
- 2. As with joyful steps they sped
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek the mercy-seat.**
- 3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**
- 4. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.**

*Dix (AM94)
From a chorale by Conrad Kocher (1786–1872)
Abridged by William Henry Monk (1823–1889)*

William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)

Please sit for

The Choir Anthem

Ding dong! merrily on high

Ding dong! merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swung,
And *io, io, io*, by priest and people sung.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*16th century French melody
arranged by Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

All remain seated for

The Prayers

Each petition ends with
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our 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.**

All stand to sing

The Carol

During the Carol a collection is taken for the ministry of the church. Please give generously.

**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 heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:
 O come, let us adore him...**

**Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!**

*Adeste Fideles (AM78)
Melody probably by John Francis Wade (c.1711–1786)*

*Adeste, fideles, (Latin, 18th century)
translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880)
and others*

Please remain standing for

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Organ Voluntary

Ding Dong Merrily on high

arr. Wilberg

*A service of Holy Communion follows
in the Lady Chapel.*

*Please take this service sheet home
and feel free to use the prayer below as a grace before your Christmas meal:*

**Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world,
May your radiance shine in our hearts,
in our homes,
and upon all in need this Christmas.**