



Welcome to the
The Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
22nd December 2019

Officiant: The Reverend Andrew Quigley, Vicar
Director of Music: Matthew Haynes
Organist: Michael Rule

As the lights dim, please stand

Carol

verses 1 & 2 sung by the 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.

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.**

**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.**

Bidding Prayer The Reverend Andrew Quigley

followed by

The Lord's Prayer

**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 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.**

The Congregation is invited to sit for the readings and choir items, and to stand to sing the carols.

1st Lesson Genesis 3. 8-15 The Garden of Eden
read by Edwin Jones

Choir Adam lay ybounden Ord

2nd Lesson Genesis 22 15-18 The promise to Abraham
read by Ian Jones

Carol **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, goodwill 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 give back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

3rd Lesson Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7 Prophecy of the Messiah's birth
read by Jennifer Clegg

Choir Ding Dong Merrily on high arr. Wilberg

4th Lesson Micah 4. 2-4 The Messiah from Bethlehem
read by Simon Edwards

Carol: **God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Choir only From God our heav'nly Father ...
All **O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

**The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The blessed babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

Choir only But when to Bethlehem they came ...
All **O tidings of comfort and joy ...**

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,**

**See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ child
bring our hearts' oblations:
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**Child, for us sinners
Poor and in a manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**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,
Christ the Lord.**

Prayers & Blessing

Carol **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 heav'n 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 newborn King!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"**

Organ Voluntary

Rhapsodie sur des Noëls

Gigout

To find out more about the Christian faith and way of life or
to seek spiritual direction please contact us.



For information on our choirs please contact the Director of Music
Church Office on 254 2111
www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk