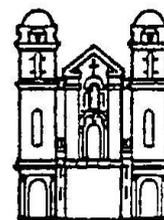


Welcome to
The Church of Saint James the Greater
Leicester



Christmas Morning 2019

The Gathering

Please stand as the Choir enters.

The Reverend Andrew Quigley 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 and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**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 round,
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.**

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 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.'**

Please sit for

The Talk

by the Vicar

The Carol

**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 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 to 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 glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Please sit for

The Choir Anthem
Ding dong! merrily on high

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!**

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.**