

# *St Mary's Ecclesfield*

*Following Jesus, Celebrating Life, Welcoming All*



*Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given...  
and His name will be called,  
'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.'*

*Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Eve 2021*

*Please sit for the readings except for the last reading from St John's Gospel.  
Please sit when singing the carols.*

**Carol: Once In Royal David's City, verse 1 Solo, verse 2 Choir.**

*Solo*

1. 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.

*Choir*

2. 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.

**All**

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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** (please be seated)

**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.**

**Reading 1, Isaiah 9:2,6-7 The prophecy of Messiah's birth**

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.

**Carol: Sweet Chiming Bells (Ecclesfield Carol)**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.

*Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells  
Sweet bells, sweet chiming Christmas bells  
They cheer us on our Heavenly way,  
Sweet chiming bells.*

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind."

*Sweet bells ...*

"To you in David's Town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign."

*Sweet bells ...*

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands  
And in a manger laid."

*Sweet bells ...*

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song.

*Sweet bells ...*

"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men,  
Begin and never cease."

*Sweet bells ...*

## **Reading 2, Micah 5:2-4 The Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem.**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;

### **Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.**

1. 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.
  
2. 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.
  
3. 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.
  
4. 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 all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

### **Reading 3, "Miracle and Magic" by Heather Pencavel**

God,  
You could have come  
With miracle and magic  
In a flash of light  
In a hurricane of judgement  
So that the earth shook  
And the universe trembled  
But you chose to come in a baby's new-born cry  
You chose to make your coming known  
To working men on a cold hillside  
To wandering scholars

To an innkeeper  
And to the beasts of the field.

Because you came, a baby,  
Born to a young girl  
You brought miracle and magic and mystery  
Into ordinary things  
And the whole creation sings at your coming  
And is blessed.

### **Choir Carol: A Maiden most gentle (Andrew Carter)**

### **Reading 4, Luke 1:26-38 The Annunciation**

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[c] 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.

### **Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem.**

1. 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
2. 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 wondering love

3. 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.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

### **Reading 5, Luke 2:1-7 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.

### **Carol: In The Bleak Midwinter.**

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

4. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

5. What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

**Reading 6, "Tale of the Innkeeper" by R. May Hill.**

I am old, so old and weary - my eyes are growing dim  
Yet I dream of the fateful evening when I had no room for Him.  
The earth was hushed, expectant and a burning star hung low  
For the Son of God's arrival but how was I to know?  
When Joseph came a knocking shabby and poor  
And Mary's eyes pleading, still I closed the door.  
If the angels carried the message, if the heavenly host had said,  
'The kingly child is coming,' I would have found a bed.  
When I heard the angelic chorus and saw the shepherds who came  
Gladly to kneel and worship; sick was my heart with shame;  
I am old, so old and weary and this is my earnest plea  
That the loving Christ of Christmas will find a place for me.

**Music Group: What kind of greatness?**

**Reading 7, Luke 2:8-16 The Shepherds go to 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,[b] 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.

**Carol: See amid the winter's snow.**

1. See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

2. Lo, within a manger lies  
 He who built the starry skies;  
 He, who throned in height sublime  
 Sits amid the cherubim.  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...*
  
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
 What your joyful news today;  
 Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
 On the lonely mountain steep?  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...*
  
4. "As we watched at dead of night,  
 Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
 Angels singing peace on earth  
 Told us of the Saviour's birth".  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...*
  
5. Sacred infant, all divine,  
 What a tender love was Thine,  
 Thus to come from highest bliss  
 Down to such a world as this.  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...*
  
6. Teach, O teach us , Holy Child,  
 By Thy Face so meek and mild,  
 Teach us to resemble Thee,  
 In Thy Sweet humility!  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...*

### **Reading 8, Matthew 2:1-11 The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.**

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.

**Carol: Angels from the realms of glory.**

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!
  
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light;  
Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!
  
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star;  
Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!
  
4. Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

**Reading 9, John 1:1-14 The Incarnation.**  
***(Please stand)***

The Word Became Flesh

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.

## **Sermon**

## **Choir Carol: Christmas Night (Rutter)**

## **Prayers**

## **Blessing.**

## **Final Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful.**

1. 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!*

2. 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...*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Hymns of exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
"Glory to God in the highest";

*O come, let us adore Him...*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born on Christmas morning;  
Jesus to Thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

*O come, let us adore Him...*

*A Very Happy Christmas and A Peaceful New Year  
To You and All Those You Love  
From St Mary's*