



Garden Carol Service
Tuesday 20th December 2022
7pm

Welcome: Jon Drake

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.
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.
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.

C.F.Alexander, 1823-9

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in your dark streets shining
is everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillips Brooks, 1868 (alt.)

Reading: Luke 2:8-12

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. "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:
4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Nahum Tate, 1700

Reading: Luke 2:13-15

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.'
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. 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!*

2. 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...

3. 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...

Charles Wesley, 1739

Prayer

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, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest!

O come, let us adore him...

tr. F.Oakley, 1802-80

Mulled punch and mince pies

Please stay behind to enjoy non-alcoholic mulled punch and mince pies* will be served immediately after the service. (*may contain traces of nuts)

Donations

At Christmas all our church giving is going to two excellent charities: Maidenhead Foodshare and Christians Against Poverty. There are buckets at the gates to the garden if you would like to give.

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Guilt? Meaning?
Acceptance? Identity?
Science? Suffering?
Is this it? Forgiveness?

Two ways to explore the answers...



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

From 23 January at St. Mary's

An informal and relaxed six-week evening course, with a meal on Mondays at 7.30pm. No Bible knowledge required, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. Ask any question you like, or just sit and listen! It is completely free.

For details contact:
01628 638866
office@stmarysmaidenhead.org

REAL LIVES 2023

7 - 11 March at St. Mary's

Glen Scrivener interviews a range of people, who each have fascinating stories about the impact of Jesus Christ on their lives, and the real hope he gives.

Event details here:

<https://www.reallives2023.co.uk/>

