



St. Edmund's
Parish Advent Carol Service
Saturday, 13th December 2025
at 7.15 p.m.



GATHERING HYMN

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

***R: Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

2. O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

R: Rejoice, rejoice!

3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by thine advent here:
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

R: Rejoice, rejoice!

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Let us Pray:

God who dispels all darkness,
come to be with us, in each one of our situations;
come to live among us, live with us and in us;
come to fill the distances that divide and separate us;
come to reconcile us with You and with one another.
God of Light, open our hearts to the mystery of your love and the
invitation of your grace. Let our complacency give way to conversion
and our judgments to compassionate acceptance of others. Turn
oppression to justice and transform conflict to peaceful accord. We
ask this in the name of Jesus, who draws near, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

CHORALE:

Rorate Caeli

Christopher Tye, Words Isaiah chapter 45, verse 8

Rorate caeli desuper
et nubes pluant iustum:
aperiatur terra et germinet Salvatorem.

Send down dew from above,
O heavens,
and let the clouds rain down upon the just!
Let the earth open and spring forth a saviour!

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

WHEN IS HE COMING *(led by the Folk Choir)*

1. When is He coming, when, O when is He coming, the Redeemer?
When will we see Him, when, O when will we see Him, the Redeemer?

***R: Come, O come, from Your kingdom up there,
From Your kingdom up there above!
Come, O come, to Your people on earth,
To Your people on earth bring love!
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!***

2. Long years awaiting, many years here awaiting, the Redeemer!
Ready to greet Him, always ready to meet Him, the Redeemer!

R: Come, O come, from Your kingdom up there,

3. Spare us from evil, from the clutches of evil, O Redeemer!
Though we are sinners we have known your forgiveness, O Redeemer!

R: Come, O come, from Your kingdom up there,

READING

John 1 : 19 - 28 The Testimony of John the Baptist

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said,
'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord",
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

9.30 CHOIR:

Like A Sea Without A Shore

Estelle White

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

LONGING FOR LIGHT

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

R: Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

R: Christ, be our light.....

3. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

R: Christ, be our light.....

READING

Matthew 1 : 18 - 25 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

FOLK CHOIR:

No Room At The Inn

M. Gibson & Stephen Church

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

SILENT NIGHT (led by the 9.30 Choir)

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child;
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

ROSIE'S CHOIR:

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

READING

Luke 2: 8 - 18 The angel of the Lord appears 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 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, 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

DING, DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH!

1. Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding dong, verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.

***R: Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!***

2. E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen.

R: Gloria, hosannah.....

3. Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May ye beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers.

R: Gloria, hosannah.....

CHORALE:

I Sing Of A Maiden

Lennox Berkeley, Anon. 15th C.

READING

Jesus Is the reason by Joanna Fuchs

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.

He was born both God and man,
A Saviour for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed His call.

So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason.

9.30 CHOIR:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Trad. Polish Trans. Edith Margaret Gellivbrand Reed

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

WE THREE KINGS

1. We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

***R: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

R: O star of wonder.....

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Pray'r and praising, gladly raising,
Worship him, God most high.

R: O star of wonder.....

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

R: O star of wonder.....

ROSIE'S CHOIR:

Tidings Of Comfort And Joy

Trad. Arr. Audrey Snyder

READING

Christmas Bells *by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men!'

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men!'

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day -
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men!'

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men!'"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!'

FOLK CHOIR:

Christ Is Born

Words: Pauline Woodham Music: Gershwin

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

1. Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

2. "Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

3. "Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear him thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament,
And the bitter weather.

4. "Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps good, my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

5. In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

BLACK - PLEASE ALL SING
PINK - LADIES & GIRLS SING ONLY
BLUE - MEN & BOYS SING ONLY

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us Pray:

Emmanuel, Our world waits in darkness longing for Your light.
In the midst of darkness, enkindle our hope.
As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war,
Be with us.

As we long for families to be reunited, **Be with us.**
As we long for enemies to be reconciled, **Be with us.**
As we long for cures and healings, **Be with us.**
As we long for decent jobs and economic security,
Be with us.

As we long for love and community, **Be with us.**
Fulfill the deepest longings of your people and
dispel the darkness in our hearts and in our world.
Let your Word ignite the hope the world needs
to bring to life your love and justice.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Verse 1 Combined Choirs only

2. 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.

***R: Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

3. 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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

***R: Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

RECESSIONAL:

Fugue on the Magnificat

J.S.Bach

Our guest organist tonight is Norman Harper. We would like to thank him very much.

Thank you for taking part in our Parish Advent Carol Service.
Please join us in the Church Hall for Mince Pies & Mulled Wine!

If you wish to donate to a collection for St. Christopher's Hospice please do so by visiting
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1699010107900>

Alternatively you can give a donation in the basket as you leave the Church
or by dropping a donation into the Parish Office letter box in an envelope marked
'St. Christopher's Hospice'. Or use the QR code on the Noticeboard at the back of the
Church near the poster. Thank you.

We wish you a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas!

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

Wednesday, 24th December Vigil Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE

(Early Masses intended only for families with children. To avoid overcrowding, others are asked not to attend.)

4.00 p.m. in St. Edmund's Church

4.00 p.m. in the Church Hall

(Additional Mass in the Hall for younger children and their families.)

(Masses for general congregation.)

6 p.m. Mass preceded by Carols. Music led by the Folk Choir

6.00 p.m. in St. Edmund's Church

8.00 p.m. in St. Edmund's Church

Midnight Mass preceded by Carols led by the Chorale

11.30 p.m. in St. Edmund's Church

Thursday, 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

Music led by the 9.30 Choir

8.00 a.m. in St. Edmund's Church

9.30 a.m. in St. Edmund's Church

11.00 a.m. in St. Edmund's Church

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

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