

**WELCOME TO  
ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**Pastor Jim Halmarson  
Deacon Suzanne McMillan  
Deacon Alan Wotherspoon  
Organist and Choir Director: Syd Birrell**



Romanian Byzantine Icon

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

**7:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*Please stand for the hymns and sit for the readings and choir carols.*

*Candlelight is shared and passed through the congregation.*

**Hymn: Once in Royal David's City**

*Irby*

*(the music to this hymn may be found at Hymn 123 in the Blue Hymnal)*

*Choir only verses 1 (Solo–Tonya-Leah Watts) – please join in on verse 2-6*

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  
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:  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.**

**to the place**

*Please kneel or be seated*

### **The Bidding Prayer**

*Officiant* Beloved in Christ, this evening it is our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this chapel, dedicated to his pure and lowly Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to

build, And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us: Our Father...

**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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Officiant* The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Choir: In the Bleak Mid-winter**  
*(soloists: Loulia Timochева and Max DeBues)*

*Harold Darke*

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.

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.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day  
A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

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.

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-6**

*Read by Sylvia Sutherland*

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

*Please stand. The candles are extinguished as the organ sounds.*

**Hymn: 88      Come, thou long expected Jesus**

*Stuttgart*

**Second Reading: Isaiah 7:10-15**

*Read by Brian Beckett*

She shall bear a son named Emmanuel

**Choir: Sussex Carol**

*arr Willcocks*

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring  
News of great joy, news of great mirth news of our merciful King's birth  
Then why should men on earth be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad  
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty?  
When sin departs before His grace, then life and health come in its place  
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.  
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night  
Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forever

**Hymn: 121   O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*Forest Green*

**Third Reading: Luke 1:39-56**

*Read by Deanna Hurford*

Mary magnifies the Lord

**Choir:    Angelus ad Virginem**

*Halley*

An angel came secretly to the Virgin and calming her fears said to her: 'Hail! Hail,  
Queen of virgins, you will conceive and give birth to the Lord of heaven and earth, the  
Saviour of mankind. You are the gateway of Heaven, a cure for wrongs.'

'How shall I conceive, knowing not a man? How shall I be constant to my vows?'  
'The grace of the Holy Spirit will accomplish these things. Fear not, but rejoice, for  
the power of God will keep you chaste.'

To this the illustrious maiden replied and said to him: ‘I am the humble servant of Almighty God. From you, his heavenly messenger, I receive this mystery. I long for it to come to pass and I am ready to do God’s will.’

**Hymn: 148**                    **See Amid the Winter’s Snow**

**Fourth Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

*Read by Cheryl Baker*

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

**Choir: Myn Lyking**

*Terry*

*(verses sung by the Choral Scholars)*

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing.  
She lulled a lyttel childe, a sweete Lording.

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;  
of alle lord is he is Lord, of alle kyng es of Kying.

There was mickle melody at that chylde’s birth.  
All that were in heavenly bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels bright sang their song to that chylde;  
Blyssid be thou, and so be she, so meek and so mild.

**Hymn: 137 What Child Is This?**                    *William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

**Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-14**

*Read by John Downey*

An angel declares good news to the shepherds

**Choir: Carol of the Bells**

*Leonvotich*

Hark! How the bells;  
Sweet silver bells,  
All seem to say “Throw cares away”  
Christmas is here  
Bringing good cheer,  
To young and old,  
Meek and bold!  
Ding, dong, ding, dong,  
That is their song,

With joyful ring  
All Caroling.

One seems to hear,  
Words of good cheer,  
From ev'rywhere  
Filling the air  
O, how they pound,  
Rising their sound,  
O'er hill and dale,  
Telling their tale,  
Gayly they ring.

While people sing song of good cheer,  
Christmas is here!

Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end  
Ding, dong, ding, dong,  
That is their song,  
With joyful ring,  
All caroling.  
Ding, dong, their joyful tone to ev'ry home,  
Hark! How the bells,  
All seem to say  
"Throw cares away"  
Ding, dong, ding, dong, on without end their joyful tone to eve'ry home.

**Hymn: 136 While shepherds watched their flocks by night** *Winchester Old*

**Sixth Reading: Luke 2: 15-20**  
The Shepherds go to the Manger

*Read by Wendy McNab*

**Choir: The Innkeeper's Song**

*Ballantine*

There was a knock (knock) and I opened the door,  
There was a man (n' wife) lookin' tired and poor  
"Is there a room?" (He asked) "or maybe even a floor,  
'Cause we're gonna have a baby, tell me what's the score?"

“The inn is full”, (I said) “not a room to be found,  
Ya haven’t time (no time) for any lookin’ around,  
But in the barn (barn?) bit of straw on the ground,  
Your wife an’ you look sleepy only horses around.”

“Take a liddle hay; put it in the manger,  
Find a wooly blanket for the mother and Child  
Got a liddle guest sleepin’ in a manger  
Wise men and shepherds have found the Messiah!”

They took the barn and made a bed out of hay,  
The child was born (right there) early next day  
I heard a song in the hills far away.  
The angels told shepherds get to town right away

“Take a liddle hay; put it in the manger,  
Find a wooly blanket for the mother and Child  
Got a liddle guest sleepin’ in a manger  
Wisemen and shepherds have found the Messiah!”

There was a song (sing on!) men were praisin’ the Lord  
The King was here (praise on!) the Messiah foretold  
Wisemen came (come on!) God’s Son to behold,  
Gave him gifts of frankincense of myrrh and of gold

“Take a liddle hay; put it in the manger,  
Find a wooly blanket for the mother and Child  
Got a liddle guest sleepin’ in a manger  
Wisemen and shepherds have found the Messiah!”  
Wisemen and shepherds have found the Messiah!  
Found the Messiah!

**Hymn: 135 Shepherds in the fields abiding**

*Iris*

**Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14**

*Read by Mitchell Park*

The Gospel of the Incarnation

**Choir: And The Glory**

*Handel*

*“And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed*

*And all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”*

**Offertory Hymn: 118 O come, all ye Faithful**  
(verses 1 – 5)

*Adeste Fideles*

### **Collect for Christmas**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

**All And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

All O God,

**All who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.**

### **The Blessing**

*Officiant* May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**All Amen**

**Recessional Hymn: 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** *Mendelssohn*

**Organ:** Toccata in F

Widor

A special thanks to Christine Slaven, Syd Birrell and the choir for the beautiful music!

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the beauty of tonight’s service. Blessings and best wishes for a Happy Christmas. *Your Clergy and Wardens*

**The Festival of Lessons and Carols** was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Dean of King’s, Eric Milner-White, who was convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn ‘Once in royal David’s city’. In almost every

year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive Organists including Harold Darke, 1940–45; and Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. AC Benson recalled: ‘My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.’ Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King’s could not be broadcast for security reasons.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. ‘The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘through the windows and words of the Bible’.



**Please join us for our  
Christmas Week Services**

**ADVENT 4: Sunday, December 24**  
**One Morning Service at 9.30am** Eucharist BCP

**CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday, December 24**  
7 pm: Eucharist BAS  
9pm: Eucharist BAS with the choir

**CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday, December 25**  
10am at St John’s

**Sunday, December 31 , 2017**

**One Morning Service 9.30 am Eucharist BAS**

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