

(All)

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 th'angelic host proclaim:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

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 th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.



## OXTED TEAM MINISTRY

*Welcome to the Oxted Team Together, online! You will need to think how you will follow the words and watch the film, either having both on the screen at the same time or printing this out. Please join in with the words in bold and with the carols. You may wish to have a candle nearby and one or two ready to light after the Eighth Reading.*

## A SERVICE of NINE READINGS AND CAROLS

***On the Fourth Sunday of  
Advent***

**20 December 2020**

**6.00 pm**



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### **Make a difference**

Welcare is a family support charity based on Christian values that strives to empower families, offering practical & emotional support. Usually Welcare receives toys donated at Christmas Services in churches to help families. This year this is not possible. In light of COVID and the challenges which even more families now face, they have set up a new fund called 'Families in Crisis'. The fund provides struggling families with immediate access to essential items that will improve their situation. Please give to this fund if you can. You can donate by visiting this giving page

<https://bit.ly/StJWelcare2020>

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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Church of England, material from which is included in this service,  
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**PROCESSIONAL** - Once in Royal David's City  
*Oxted Team Virtual Choir*  
*led by Nigel Bates. Soloist Elizabeth Hodgson,*  
*St Peter's (v1 solo, v2-3 choir)*

*(solo voice)*

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 only)*

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 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 should be  
Mild, obedient, good as He.

**(All)**

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.

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 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.

**OPENING PRAYERS:** Revd Anna Eltringham  
Oxted Team Ministry

**The Lord's 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.

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

**PRAYERS:** Revd Mary Seller  
Oxted Team Ministry

**MUSIC:** Sans Day Carol  
St John's Choir

**NINTH READING:** John 1: 1- 4  
The Incarnation of the Word of God  
Revd James Ashton Oxted Team Ministry

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.

Thanks be to God

**FINAL WORD AND BLESSING**  
Revd Anna Eltringham  
Oxted Team Ministry

**FINAL CAROL:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
Oxted Team Virtual Choir  
led by Nigel Bates

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God

**MUSIC:** Christmas Lullaby - *John Rutter*  
St Mary's Choir

*Please light your candles at home*

**CAROL:** Silent Night - (*reflective*)  
Sarah Belton, St John's

**(All)**

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

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born  
Christ, the Saviour is born

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 22: 15-18  
The promise to Abraham  
Martin Lloyd, St Peter's

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Thanks be to God

**MUSIC**

Nativity Carol—*John Rutter*  
St John's Choir

**SECOND READING:** Isaiah 9: 2,6-7  
The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth  
Alex Kirk St John's

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.  
Thanks be to God

**CAROL:** It came upon the midnight clear  
Charlotte Nicholls & Che Ramsden  
St John's

**(All)**

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, goodwill to men,  
from heav'ns all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
 with peaceful wings unfurled;  
 and still their heav'nly music floats  
 o'er all the weary world;  
 above its sad and lowly plains  
 they bend on hov'ring wing;  
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
 the blessed angels sing.

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!

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 the whole world send back the song  
 which now the angels sing.

**THIRD READING:** Advent 1955

*John Betjeman*

Robin & Catherina Hickson, St Mary's

The Advent wind begins to stir  
 With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,  
 It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,  
 And in between we only see  
 Clouds hurrying across the sky  
 And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry  
 And branches bending to the gale  
 Against great skies all silver pale  
 The world seems travelling into space,  
 And travelling at a faster pace  
 Than in the leisured summer weather  
 When we and it sit out together,  
 For now we feel the world spin round  
 On some momentous journey bound -  
 Journey to what? to whom? to where?  
 The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,  
 Your world is journeying to the birth  
 Of God made Man for us on earth.'

And how, in fact, do we prepare  
 The great day that waits us there -  
 For the twenty-fifth day of December,  
 The birth of Christ? For some it means  
 An interchange of hunting scenes  
 On coloured cards, And I remember  
 Last year I sent out twenty yards,  
 Laid end to end, of Christmas cards  
 To people that I scarcely know -  
 They'd sent a card to me, and so  
 I had to send one back. Oh dear!  
 Is this a form of Christmas cheer?  
 Or is it, which is less surprising,  
 My pride gone in for advertising?  
 The only cards that really count  
 Are that extremely small amount

EDDI, priest of St. Wilfrid  
 In his chapel at Manhood End,  
 Ordered a midnight service  
 For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,  
 And the night was stormy as well.  
 Nobody came to service,  
 Though Eddi rang the bell.

'Wicked weather for walking,'  
 Said Eddi of Manhood End.  
 'But I must go on with the service  
 For such as care to attend.

The altar-lamps were lighted, -  
 An old marsh-donkey came,  
 Bold as a guest invited,  
 And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,  
 The water splashed on the floor,  
 And a wet, yoke-weary bullock  
 Pushed in through the open door.

'How do I know what is greatest,  
 How do I know what is least?  
 That is My Father's business,'  
 Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

'But - three are gathered together -  
 Listen to me and attend.  
 I bring good news, my brethren!'  
 Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger  
 And a Stall in Bethlehem,  
 And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,  
 That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the  
 chancel,  
 They listened and never stirred,  
 While, just as though they were Bishops,  
 Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes  
 And the windows showed the day,  
 And the Ox and the Ass together  
 Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,  
 Said Eddi of Manhood End,  
 'I dare not shut His chapel  
 On such as care to attend.'

**MUSIC:** Pastorale from Christmas Concerto  
 Music: *Arcangelo Corelli*  
 St Peter's Music Group

**EIGHTH READING:** Luke 2: 8-20  
 The Shepherds go the manger  
 Will Nockles, St Mary's

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

**CAROL:** In the bleak midwinter  
Karen Hodgson, St Peter's

**(All)**

In the bleak mid-winter  
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 mid-winter  
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 mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air,  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

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.

**SEVENTH READING:** Edie's Service by  
*Rudyard Kipling*  
Simon and Fiona Lock, St George's

From real friends who keep in touch  
And are not rich but love us much  
Some ways indeed are very odd  
By which we hail the birth of God.

We raise the price of things in shops,  
We give plain boxes fancy tops  
And lines which traders cannot sell  
Thus parcell'd go extremely well

We dole out bribes we call a present  
To those to whom we must be pleasant  
For business reasons. Our defence is  
These bribes are charged against  
expenses  
And bring relief in Income Tax  
Enough of these unworthy cracks!  
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.  
A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger  
And not the Baby in the manger.

**MUSIC:** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
*Liturgy of St James.*  
*French Carol melody*  
St Mary's Choir

**FOURTH READING:** Luke 1: 26-38  
Annunciation to Mary  
Emily Danaee, St John's

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 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.

Thanks be to God



**CAROL:** O Little town of Bethlehem  
Oxted Team Virtual Choir  
led by Nigel Bates

**(All)**

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.

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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
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 great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

**FIFTH READING:** from *Little Women* by  
*Louisa May Alcott*  
Rosie Davies, St Mary's

Another bang of the street door sent the basket under the sofa, and the girls to the table, eager for breakfast.

"Merry Christmas, Marmee! Many of them! Thank you for our books. We read some, and mean to every day," they all cried in chorus.

"Merry Christmas, little daughters! I'm glad you began at once, and hope you will keep on. But I want to say one word before we sit down. Not far away from here lies a poor woman with a little newborn baby. Six children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire. There is nothing to eat over there, and the oldest

boy came to tell me they were suffering hunger and cold. My girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?"

They were all unusually hungry, having waited nearly an hour, and for a minute no one spoke, only a minute, for Jo exclaimed impetuously, "I'm so glad you came before we began!"

"May I go and help carry the things to the poor little children?" asked Beth eagerly.

"I shall take the cream and the muffings," added Amy, heroically giving up the article she most liked.

Meg was already covering the buckwheats, and piling the bread into one big plate.

"I thought you'd do it," said Mrs. March, smiling as if satisfied. "You shall all go and help me, and when we come back we will have bread and milk for breakfast, and make it up at dinnertime."

They were soon ready, and the procession set out. Fortunately it was early, and they went through back streets, so few people saw them, and no one laughed at the queer party.

A poor, bare, miserable room it was, with broken windows, no fire, ragged bedclothes, a sick mother, wailing baby, and a group of pale, hungry children cuddled under one old quilt, trying to keep warm.

How the big eyes stared and the blue lips smiled as the girls went in.

"Ach, mein Gott! It is good angels come to us!" said the poor woman, crying for joy.

**MUSIC:** Coventry Carol - *Author unknown*  
St George's - Nigel Eltringham and Sarah Brindle

**SIXTH READING:** Luke 2: 1-7  
The birth of Jesus  
Chris Blackburn, St John's

### **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