

# **Carol Service**

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



**Welcome on behalf of the community of St. John's  
Church**

**St. John's is an inclusive church community where  
all are welcomed and valued, regardless of age,  
race, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.**

**A Service of Lessons and Carols has been a regular part of Christmas for many years. We enjoy hearing familiar and new songs and readings and are reminded of the story of 'God with us'. We hope that through this service you will experience the peace and the love of God.**

*The First Reading Isaiah 9:2*

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.

**First Hymn**

*The first verse is a solo*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood 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.

**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 must be  
Mild, obedient, good as He.**

**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.**

*We sit for the Welcome*

At Christmas time we love to hear again the story of the journey to Bethlehem, the song of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, the perseverance of the magi and their

joy when they found Jesus. But let us not forget that he was born into poverty and remember those who are hungry, cold and homeless. Let us not forget that he was a refugee and remember those today who have fled for their lives to a strange land. Let us not forget that he felt the pain of life and death and remember those who are ill or anxious or bereaved. He came because he loves us. Let us go again to Bethlehem to hear again the message of the angels and worship the Son of God.

*The Second Reading Luke 1: 26-38*

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.

*We stand to sing*

**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.**

***Refrain:***

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.**

**Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;**

**Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.**

*The Third Reading (Luke 2: 1-7)*

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.

*We stand to sing*

**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 wondering love.**

**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.**

**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.**

*We sit for the Fourth Reading Luke 2: 8-14*

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!'

*Solo: The Little Road to Bethlehem by Sally Green*

*We stand to sing*

**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.**

**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.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world hath 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,  
Shall come 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.**

*We sit for the Fifth Reading (Matthew 2:1-11)*

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.

*We stand to sing*

**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 the 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!"**

*We sit for the Sixth Reading*

*The Journey of The Magi: TS Elliott*

*We stand to sing*

**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 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.**

**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.**

**We sit for the Seventh Reading 'Refugee' by  
Malcolm Guite**

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
But he is with a million displaced people  
On the long road of weariness and want.  
For even as we sing our final carol  
His family is up and on that road,  
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.  
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
And death squads spread their curse across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone  
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

*Let us pray*

We pray for all who are hungry, homeless lonely  
Jesus our Saviour, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who weep, for all who mourn  
Jesus our Saviour **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are oppressed. Give peace on earth  
Jesus our Saviour **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who govern. Give them wisdom and a  
sense of  
Justice

Jesus our Saviour **Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves, our families and friends. Bless us  
and fill us

With your love

Jesus our Saviour **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus hear us as we pray

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done in 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.**

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

**Amen**

**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!*

**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  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
All glory in the highest  
*O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!***

### **Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God the Father, God the  
son and God the holy Spirit be with us all this



Christmas time and for ever more

**Amen**

**There will be a retiring collection for Emmanuel House**

**Church Contacts**

<p><b>MINISTRY TEAM</b></p> <p><b>Associate Priest</b></p> <p><b>Licensed Lay Minister</b></p> <p><b>Church Army Evangelist</b></p>	<p>Email: ministryteam@stjohnscarrington.org.uk</p> <p>Rev David Jones 078162 09743</p> <p>Susi Artis 0115 910 3003 / 07903 115327</p> <p>Denis Tully 07942 359531</p>
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<b>Deputy wardens</b>	Cynthia Hoggett, Dorothy Dexter, Ray Hotson, Mandy Hodgson
<b>Organist</b>	Shaun Hooper
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Jane Harwood safeguarding@stjohnscarrington.org.uk
<b>Caretaker</b>	Pete Chilvers: 07584 097 003

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 6pm  
Evening Prayer  
Zoom Meeting ID 584 255 2248

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

11.00  
Zoom coffee  
[HTTPS://us02web.zoom.us/j/83660786270](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83660786270)

12.00-1.0  
Password 2020  
Carrington Community Cafe

## Christmas Services

<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm</b>	Crib Service and Christingle
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm</b>	Midnight Mass
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am</b>	Christmas Day Service

**Due to the increased risk of Covid we have decided to introduce a booking system for these Christmas services. Please can you email [churchwarden@stjohnscarrington.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@stjohnscarrington.org.uk) or call **07729 682294 or 07942 359530** to book.**

There will be no service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December and no Evening Prayer on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

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**ST. JOHN'S, CARRINGTON**  
**CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**