

Parish of Mortlake with East Sheen
St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake



Carols by Candlelight

20th December 2020

at 5pm and at 6.30pm

Organ Voluntary: 'Les bergers' and 'Desseins éternels' from
La Nativité du Seigneur - Messiaen

Opening Hymn (Sung by the choir)

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.

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.

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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION by Canon Ann Nickson –
Team Rector

We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Tonight we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer, poetry and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption.

We begin with a prayer:

Emmanuel, born of stardust
and earth's squalor,
embrace our foolishness
into your wisdom,
our coldness into your warmth:
that together we may heal all that wounds,
and open the door to love.

Amen

And now we pray together, as Christ himself taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

Amen

We sit

Choir Adam Lay ybounden Ord

Reading Light in the darkness Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7
(read by Greg Kyle at 5pm, Perry Kitchen at 6.30pm)

Hymn (*sung by the choir*)

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.

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.

Philips Brooke 1835-1893

We sit

Reading The Angel Gabriel visits Mary Luke 1: 26 – 38
(read by Kate Todd at 5pm, Molly Neal at 6.30pm)

Carol What sweeter music Rutter

We sit

Reading A Child is born Luke 2 . 1 – 7
(read by Penny Bell-Wright at 5pm and Peter Cowell at 6.30pm)

Hymn (*sung by the choir*)

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
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

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.

Josef Mohr (1792-1848) Tr. J.F. Young (1820-1885)

We sit

Reading 'Carol' by Thomas Merton
(*read by Robin MacDonald at 5pm and Penny Cowell at 6.30pm*)

Carol Past Three O'clock (arr Wood)

Reading A sign to the shepherds Luke 2:8 – 20
(*Read by Dan Graham at 5pm and Ed Coke at 6.30pm*)

Hymn (*sung by the choir*)

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.*

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
glory to the new-born King.*

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
glory to the new-born King.*

*Charles Wesley, (1707-1788)
George Whitfield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1726-1790)*

We sit

Reading 'Into the darkest hour' by Madeleine L'Engle
(read by Rhonda Senior at 5pm and Mary Abel at 6.30pm)

Please stand

Reading The Mystery of the Incarnation John 1.1-14
read by Canon Ann Nickson

Carol Torches Joubert

The Prayers *(we sit or kneel)*

Hymn (*sung by the choir*)

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:

Chorus

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Chorus

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Chorus

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest:'

Chorus

Adeste fideles Latin anon

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Final from Symphonie VI - Widor

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