

# ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHESTERTON

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve 2024

### ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ Please stand for the Hymns and sit for the Choir carols and all Lessons except for the Ninth.

¶ The congregation remains seated until verse 3

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(Solo) 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.

(Choir) 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.

(All) 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.

#### ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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  
to the place 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.

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)*

*Music: H J Gauntlett (1805–76) and A H Mann (1850–1929) with descant by D Willcocks (1919-2015)*

¶ The congregation remains standing for the Bidding Prayers

#### BIDDING PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 those who 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.**

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.**

## CHOIR

Ring out, ye bells! All Nature swells  
With gladness at the wondrous story,—  
The world was lorn, but Christ is born  
To change our sadness into glory.

Sing, earthlings, sing! To-night a King  
Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.  
The outstretched hand o'er all the land  
Is raised in pity to caress us.

Come at his call; be joyful all;  
Away with mourning and with sadness!  
The heavenly choir with holy fire  
Their voices raise in songs of gladness.

## RING OUT, YE BELLS

The darkness breaks and Dawn awakes,  
Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.  
The rocks and stones in holy tones  
Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.

Then why should we in silence be,  
When Nature lends her voice to praises;  
When heaven and earth proclaim the truth  
Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?

No, be not still, but with a will  
Strike all your harps and set them ringing;  
On hill and heath let every breath  
Throw all its power into singing!

Words: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)  
Music: Lance Whitehead (1964-)

## FIRST LESSON

### Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

## CHOIR

Make we joy now in this fest,  
*In quo Christus natus est [In which Christ was born].*  
Eya, eya.

*A Patre Unigenitus [only begotten of the Father],*  
Is through a maiden come to us:  
Sing we of Him and say  
'Welcome' *Veni, Redemptor gentium [Come Redeemer of the nations].*

## MAKE WE JOY NOW IN THIS FEST

*Agnoscat omne seculum [let every age recognise],*  
A bright star made three kings to come,  
Him for to seek with their presens,  
*Verbum supernum prodiens [the Word from on high proceeding].*

*A solis ortus cardine [from the edge of the sunrise],*  
So mighty a Lord is none as He:  
And to our kind He hath Him knit,  
*Adam parens quod pollut [which Father Adam defiled].*

Words: Anonymous  
Music: William Walton (1902-1983)

## SECOND LESSON

### Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises faithful Abraham that, through his seed, all nations of the earth shall be blessed.*

## CHOIR

What sweeter music can we bring,  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honour to this day,  
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling Winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn,  
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis He is born, whose quick'ning birth  
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven, and the under-earth.

## WHAT SWEETER MUSIC

We see Him come, and know Him ours,  
Who, with His sunshine, and His showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome Him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart,  
Which we will give Him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do Him honour; who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1634)  
Music: John Rutter (1945-)

## HYMN

(All) 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
that into exile drear is gone  
far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(Lower) 2. O come, thou Branch of Jesse! Draw  
the quarry from the lion's claw;  
from the dread caverns of the grave,  
from nether hell, thy people save.  
*Refrain*

(Higher) 3. O come, O come, thou Dayspring  
bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
*Refrain*

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

(Lower) 4. O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.  
*Refrain*

(All) 5. O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed with awe  
Gavest thy folk the elder law.  
*Refrain*

## THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

## CHOIR

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,  
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:  
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak  
winter,  
turning our darkness into light.

## A TENDER SHOOT

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might gave her his child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light

*Words: William Bartholomew (1793-1867)  
Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)*

## FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

*The prophecy of the Messiah's kingdom of peace.*

## CHOIR

## CAROL OF THE BELLS

*Words: anon., based on the Ukrainian New Year song 'Shchedryk'  
Music: M. Leontovich (1877-1921) arr. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)*

## HYMN

(All) 1. Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

(Higher) 2. By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
Evermore and evermore.

(Lower) 3. He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.

## OF THE FATHER'S HEART BEGOTTEN

(Higher) 4. O how blest that wondrous  
Birthday  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

(Lower) 5. This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

(All) 6. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore.

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

### CHOIR

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all.

### A MAIDEN MOST GENTLE

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.

*Words and music: Andrew Carter (1939-)*

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

## CHOIR

Still, still, still, weil's Kindlein schlafen will!  
Maria tut es niedersingen,  
ihre keusche Brust darbringen,  
Still, still, still, weil's Kindlein schlafen will!

[Hush, hush, hush, for the little child wants wants to sleep!  
Maria sings softly to him, offers him her chaste breast.]

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein schlaf!  
Die Engel tun schön musizieren,  
vor dem Kindlein jubilieren.  
Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein schlaf!

## HYMN

1. 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.

2. 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.

## SEVENTH LESSON

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

## CHOIR

Oh, holy night: the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices;  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices!  
O, night divine! Oh night when Christ was born!

## STILL, STILL, STILL

[Sleep, sleep, sleep, my dear child, sleep!  
The angels are making beautiful music, celebrating the little child.]

Groß, groß, groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß!  
Gott hat den Himmelsthron verlassen,  
und muss reisen auf der Strassen.  
Groß, groß, groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß.

[Great, great, great, the love is enormous!  
God has left his heavenly throne and must travel on the streets.]

*Words: Georg Götsch (1895-1956)  
Music: trad. Austrian arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

(Choir) 3. 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.

(All) 4. 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.

## Luke 2:8-16

## O HOLY NIGHT

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, he guardeth us from danger;  
Behold your King! Before the Lowly bend!

*Words: J.S. Dwight (1813-1893)  
Music: Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. John E. West (1863-1929)*

## HYMN

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and  
nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;  
Let songs be heard on high.  
While fields and streams and hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## JOY TO THE WORLD

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his  
love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

*Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) arr. John Rutter (1945-)*

## EIGHTH LESSON

**Matthew 2:1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

### CHOIR

Què li darem an el Noi de la Mare?  
Què li darem que li sàpiga bo?  
Li darem panses amb unes balances,  
Li darem figues amb un paneró.

Què li darem al Fillet de Maria?  
Què li darem al formós Infantó?  
Panses i figues i nous i olives,  
Panses i figues i mel i mató.

Tam-pa-tam-tam que les figues són verdes,  
Tam-pa-tam-tam que ja maduraran.  
Si no maduren el dia de Pasqua,  
maduraran en el dia del Ram.

### EL NOI DE LA MARE

[What shall we give to the Son of Mary?  
What shall we give that will taste good to him?  
We shall give him well weighed raisins and a basket of  
figs.

What shall we give to the little child of Mary?  
What shall we give to the beautiful child?  
Raisins and figs and nuts and olives, raisins and figs and  
honey and curd cheese.

Tam-pa-tam-tam, the figs are not ripe,  
Tam-pa-tam-tam, but they will surely ripen.  
If they're not ripe on Christmas Day, they will ripen on  
Palm Sunday.]

*Words: trad. Catalan*

*Music: Ernest Cervera (1896-1972)*

### PATAPAN

*Words: Bernard de la Monnoye (1641-1728) tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

*Music: Burgundian trad. arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)*

¶ The Congregation stands

## NINTH LESSON

**John 1:1-14**

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

¶ The Congregation sits

## CHOIR

Here is the little door,  
lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more,  
but enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold.  
Gold that was never bought or sold;  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
Incense in clouds about His head;  
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,  
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

## HERE IS THE LITTLE DOOR

Bend low about His bed,  
For each He has a gift;  
See how His eyes awake,  
Lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.  
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)  
For incense, smoke of battle red,  
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;  
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;  
Touched by such tiny hands,  
And oh, such tiny feet.

*Words: Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)  
Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

## A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

¶ *The Congregation stands*

### HYMN

1. 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!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*O come...*

*(Choir)* 3. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
*O come...*

*Words: Adeste, fideles, (Latin, 18th century) translated by FREDERICK OAKELEY (1802-1880) and others  
Music: J F Wade, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015) and Chris Pountain*

¶ *The Congregation sits*

## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

*All* The people who walked in darkness  
**have seen a great light.**

*All* For to us a child is born  
**to us a Son is given.**

All His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, mighty God,  
**the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

All Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

*A Collect for Christmas Eve and a Blessing are prayed.*

## HYMN

1. 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.*

2. 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.*

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

3. 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.*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88) and others  
Music: F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47), last verse arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

¶ *The congregation remains standing whilst the clergy and choir depart.*

## SAFETY NOTICE

In the event of an emergency, please remain calm and stay in your seat until directed by a steward to leave the church. Please leave the church in an orderly manner. Exits will be provided on both sides of the church at the back and through the vestry door for those sitting nearer the front. Once outside the church, please move right away (as swiftly as possible) towards the recreation ground or Church Street and avoid blocking the exits or churchyard.

## DONATIONS TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



There will be no collection take during the service, but you can give cash in one of the plates or baskets as you leave. Electronic donations can be made via the machine at the back or simply use this QR code to pay by mobile phone. All donations are for the work and ministry of St Andrew's Church in the parish of Chesterton. Thank you for whatever you choose to give.