

St Anne's Church, Kew



The Carol Service

In Christ's name, a very warm welcome to you from far and near

We hope that you will find this a special, joyful and prayerful occasion as we look forward to celebrating once again the birth of the Saviour.

During the singing of the carol O come, all ye faithful, there will be a collection for the work of St Anne's Church. If you are an eligible UK tax payer, you can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Please fill in and use the Gift Aid envelope at the end of your pew.

The church has a loop system. Hearing aids may be switched to the position T. Please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off.

The Vicar will announce the opening Carol.

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 gentle mother
in whose tender arms he lay:
Christian children all should be
kind, 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 feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all 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;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore 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.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in Kew and in the diocese of Southwark.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the very young; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but on 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 in the Lord Jesus, we for ever more 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:

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**

May 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 His peace.

All Amen.

All sit

The Choir: Adam lay y bounden (Boris Ord)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9. 2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

All stand to sing:

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you
lie!

Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent
stars go by:

yet in your dark streets shining is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you
tonight.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all
the 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 in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad
tidings tell -
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

All sit

SECOND READING: MICAH 5. 2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of
Bethlehem

All 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.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing

All sit

THIRD READING: ST LUKE I. 26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

All stand to sing:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
'From God, all hail,' the angel said to Mary,
'most highly favoured lady!'
Gloria!

'Fear not, for you shall bear a holy child,
by him shall we to God be reconciled;
his name shall be Emmanuel, the long-foretold:
most highly favoured lady!'
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary humbly bowed her head:
'To me be as it pleases God,' she said,
'My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!

'And so,' she said, 'how happy I shall be!
All generations will remember me;
for God has kept his promises to Israel.'
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel - the Christ - was born
in Bethlehem, upon that Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say,
'Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!'

FOURTH READING: ST LUKE 2. 1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

The Choir: Gabriel's Message

All stand to sing:

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 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,
worshiped 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.

FIFTH READING: ST LUKE 2. 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

The Choir: Torches (John Joubert)

All stand to sing:

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind

"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease."

SIXTH READING: ST MATTHEW 2. 1-11

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus

All stand to sing:

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Chorus

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim. **Chorus**

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep? **Chorus**

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing peace on earth
Told us of the Saviour's birth". **Chorus**

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,

Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this. **Chorus**

Teach, O teach us , Holy Child,
By Thy Face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee,
In Thy Sweet humility! **Chorus**

SEVENTH READING: ST JOHN I. 1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the
Incarnation

Address

*During the final carol a collection is taken for the work
of the church.*

All stand to sing:

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!*

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh; We to the
Christ Child
Bring our heart's oblations:

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?

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God
In the Highest:

THE BLESSING

Giving

St Anne's relies on the generous donations of individuals. To support the ministry, mission and fabric of this church, we would appreciate it if you could donate in any of these ways:

With cash or contactless credit/debit card on leaving the church. Use a white envelope for cash if a UK taxpayer.

Online donation at <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/st-annes-church-kew-green>

Using the QR code on your smartphone



Join our planned giving scheme – Standing Order & Gift Aid forms are available at the back of church.

Thank you.

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