

17th December 2023

WELCOME TO OUR CAROL SERVICE

Jointly hosted by the Furzedown Churches: St James, St Paul's, St Alban's and Mitcham Lane Baptist Church. The Service will follow the order as printed.

Pre-service music by the Furzedown Wind Band and organist Anne Willson

WELCOME by Revd Rob Powell. Team Rector of Furzedown

Congregation to stay seated until verse 3



Solo by Holly 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 (a cappella)

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 (Please stand):

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly mother In whose gentle arms He lay. Christian children all must be Mild, obedient, good as He.

Women:

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 aladness.

Men:

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.

All (with descant)

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 F. Alexander Public Domain

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 9: 1-2, 6-7 – The Birth Prophesied (Maia & Marcelina Ganesh, St James' Youth Group)

KUDOS GOSPEL CHOIR

SECOND READING:

Micah 5 v 2-5a - Out of Bethlehem shall come a ruler (Jeremy Yankey, Good Hope Deaf Club)



All (Please stand): 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 toniaht.

(Men)

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.

(Women)

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 - with descant)

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 Immanuel.
Philips Brooks Public Domain

THIRD READING:

Luke 1 v 26-38 - The Angel visits Mary (Nael Haj, Holy Land Tour Guide, reading in Hebrew & English)

Euphonium Solo by Paul Burr: O Holy Night (Adam)



All: (Please stand):

■ THE FIRST NOWELL THE ANGEL DID SAY

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

(Women)

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

(All)

And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country far; To seek for a King was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

(Choir)

This star drew nigh to the northwest: O'er Bethlehem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

(Men)

Then entered in those wise men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee, And offered there, in his presence, Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

(All)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord That hath made heaven and earth of nought,

And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

FOURTH READING:

Luke 2 v 1-7 - The Birth of Jesus (Adam Seymour-Davies, Aspire Estate Agents)

DRAMA: 'Stable Talk'



All: (Please stand) 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.

(Choir a cappella)

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

(AII)

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
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FIFTH READING:

Luke 2 v 8-20 - Shepherds & Angels (Najwa Sahhar, Director of Jeel al Amal Boys Orphanage in Bethany, Palestine, reading in Arabic & English)

Furzedown Churches Choir:



'In the Bleak Midwinter' (Darke)
'Rise Up Shepherd' (Schrader)

SIXTH READING:

John 1:1-14 – The Word Became Flesh

ADDRESS by Revd Les Isaac (President of Ascension Trust)

ALL: (Please stand)
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;

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born that happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:

18th C. TR. F. Oakley, W.T. Brooke & others Public Domain

NOTICES



ALL: (Please stand) 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.

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.
C. Wesley (1707-1788) and others Public Domain

BLESSING

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Music after the Service by Furzedown Wind Band and Peter Ramell (organist)

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