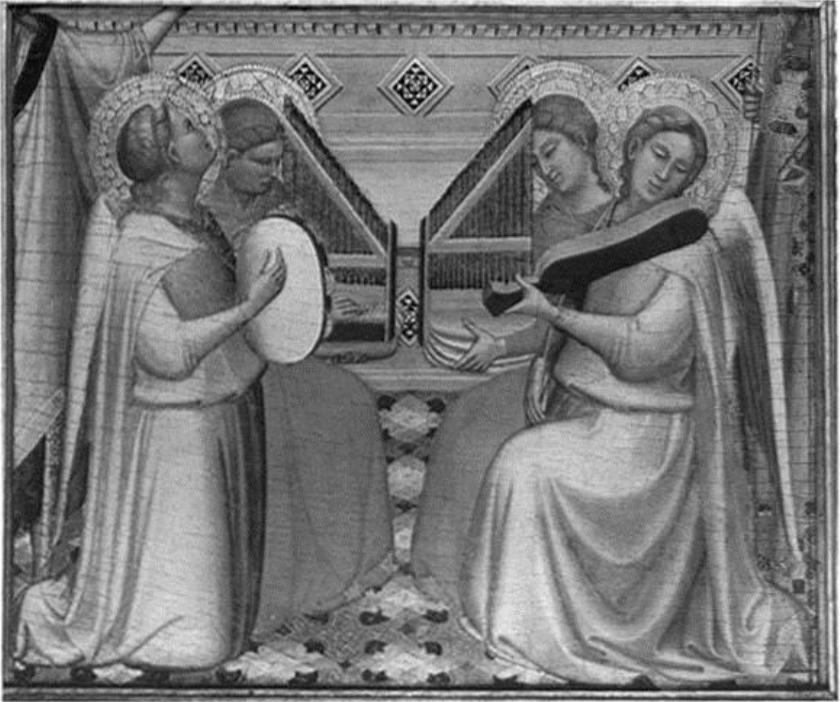


# *The Temple Church Carol Service*



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 at 11.15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

# COLLECTION

*The collection at these services will be on behalf of the Temple Church. If you use the gift-aid envelope enclosed with this Order of Service, your donation will be greatly enhanced.*

*We can also now take the collection (currently without gift-aid) by contactless giving. The collection-devices accept card- and phone-use. Please note: the panel is set to register, automatically, a gift of £5. (A second swipe will register a further £5; and so on.)*

*Thank you very much for your support of the Church.*

*Robin, Mark and all of us here.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Organ Music before the Service*

Pièce d'orgue, BWV 572

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

When the Master and Reader enter the Church please allow a period of silent reflection as the organist plays:

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

The painting reproduced on the front of this booklet is from the Florentine School, 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is in the collection of Christ Church, Oxford. (Photo: Christ Church, Oxford)

*All stand when the clergy enter the Church.*

*The choir alone sings the carols. In accordance with the Government's present rulings, please do not sing.*

**CAROL**      *Once in royal David's City*

*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 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.

*Words:* Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

*Music: Melody:* 'Irby', Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876);

*Harmony:* Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929), Organist of King's College, Cambridge. Descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*All remain standing for the Bidding Prayer.*

**B**ELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men to adore the Christ Child lying in the manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God in the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and good will over all the earth, within the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth and within this city; for all those who work within these Inns and in the Courts of London, for all those who protect the rights and freedoms and the Rule of Law with which our land is blessed.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember before God the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all 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 upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude whose hope was in the Word made flesh and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**O**UR 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.

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. **Amen.**

*All sit for the following lessons and carols.*

**CAROL** *A Babe is born*

*Choir* A babe is born all of a may,  
To bring salvation unto us.  
To him we sing both night and day,  
*Veni Creator spiritus.*

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,  
The child of bliss now born he was;  
And him to serve God give us grace,  
*O lux beata Trinitas.*

There came three kings out of the East,  
To worship the King that is so free,  
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
*A solis ortus cardine.*

The angels came down with one cry,  
A fair song that night sung they  
In worship of that child:  
*Gloria tibi Domine.*

A babe is born all of a may,  
To bring salvation unto us.  
To him we sing both night and day,  
*Veni Creator spiritus.*  
*Noel!*

*Words:* 15<sup>th</sup> century

*Music:* William Mathias (1934-1992)

**LESSON** *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

**T**HE PEOPLE that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *A spotless rose*

*Choir* A Spotless Rose is blowing,  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
Amid the cold, cold winter,  
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For through our God's great love and might,  
The Blessed Babe she bare us  
In a cold, cold winter's night.

*Words:* 14th Century English

*Music:* Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

LESSON *Matthew 1:18-25*

*The angel foretells to Joseph the birth of Jesus.*

**N**OW THE BIRTH of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Thanks be to God.

*All stand.*

**CAROL**     *God rest you merry, Gentlemen*

*Choir*     God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd babe to find:

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth efface:

*Words:* Anonymous

*Music:* English traditional carol, arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*All sit.*

**CAROL** *In the bleak mid winter*

*Choir*

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 breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

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.

*Words:* Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

*Music:* Harold Darke (1888-1976)

**LESSON** *Luke 2:1-7*

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**A**ND IT CAME TO PASS in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one unto his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished

that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

**CAROL** *The Shepherds' Carol*

*Choir* We stood on the hills, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Watching the frosted meadows  
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,  
The air so still,  
Silence more lovely than music  
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,  
Shone in the night,  
Larger than Venus it was  
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,  
It seemed to us then  
Telling of God being born  
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Our love, our hopes, ourselves,  
We give to your son.

*Words:* Clive Sansom (1910-1981)

*Music:* Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

**LESSON** *Luke 2:8-20*

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**A**ND THERE WERE in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And

this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Thanks be to God.

**CAROL**     *We three Kings*

*Choir*     We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship him God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings allelluya,  
Alleluya the earth replies.

*Words:* John H. Hopkins (1820-1891)

*Music:* John H. Hopkins (1820-1891) arr. Martin Neary (b. 1940)

*All stand.*

**CAROL** *Of the father's heart begotten*

*Choir*

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.*

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.*

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.*

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

*Words:* 'Corde natus ex parentis', Prudentius (348-413), from the Hymnus omnis Horae, translated by R F Davis (1866-1937)

*Music:* Divinum mysterium', 13th century melody adapted in *Piae Cantiones Theodorici Petri Nylandensis*, 1582. Descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*All sit.*

LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

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

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *Lully Lullay*

*Choir*

Lully, lulla,  
Thou little tiny child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.  
O sisters too,  
How may we do  
For to preserve this day?  
This poor youngling  
For whom we sing,  
By, by, lully, lullay!

Herod, the king,  
In his raging,  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might,  
In his own sight,  
All children young to slay.

That woe is me,  
Poor child, for thee!  
And ever morn and may,  
For thy parting  
Nor say nor sing,  
By, by, lully, lullay.

*Words: from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors,  
Coventry (15th century)  
Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

*All stand.*

## LESSON *John 1:1-14*

*St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

**I**N THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

*All sit.*

**CAROL** *Venite Gaudete*

<i>Choir</i>	Veni, Emmanuel. Venite adoremus, Puer natus est nobis. Alleluia. Hodie Christus natus est. Laetantur, archangeli. Alleluia. Venite, gaudete, Christus est natus. Alleluia.	<i>Come, Emmanuel</i> <i>Come let us adore him,</i> <i>A child is born to us.</i> <i>Alleluia.</i> <i>Today Christ is born.</i> <i>The angels rejoice.</i> <i>Alleluia.</i> <i>Come, let us be merry,</i> <i>Christ is born.</i> <i>Alleluia.</i>
--------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Music:* Adrian Peacock (b. 1966)

*All stand.* ***The choir alone sings the carols. In accordance with the Government's present rulings, please do not sing.***

**CAROL** *O come, all ye faithful*

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

*Words:* 'Adeste fideles', first recorded by John Francis Wade, c. 1743, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and W. T. Brooke, 1884

*Music:* 'Adeste fideles', in the manuscripts of J. F. Wade, ascribed to John Reading (died 1692), organist of Winchester Cathedral, 1675-1681; of Winchester College, 1681-1692. Descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## PRAYER

**O** GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

**M**AY HE who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The choir alone sings the carols. In accordance with the Government's present rulings, please do not sing.*

**CAROL** *Hark! the herald Angels sing*

*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!

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.

*Words:* Charles Wesley (1707-1788), with alterations by George Whitefield (1714-1770) and Martin Madan (in 1760)

*Music:* J. L. F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, adapted from 'Festgesang' (Op. 68, 1840) by W. H. Cummings and others. Descant by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Organ Music after the Service*

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV700

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*



We wish you a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Master, the Reader and all at the Temple Church