

# THE TEMPLE CHURCH



‘BAH HUMBUG?’ – CERTAINLY NOT!  
CAROLS AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2022

6.00 p.m.

*All stand as the clergy enter.*

**CAROL**      *O come, all ye Faithful*

*All*            **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!*

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

*Words: First recorded by John Francis Wade, c. 1743*

*Music: Ascribed to John Reading, organist of Winchester Cathedral, 1675-1692;*

*Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*All remain standing.*

**A**ND SO IT WAS, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that Mary 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.


Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas our delight, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem with the shepherds to adore the Christ Child lying in the manger.

There let us pray for the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind, and those that mourn; the homeless, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children.

Let us, gathered in this Church of legal London, give thanks for all whose work protects the rights and freedoms and the Rule of Law with which our land is blessed.

Let us pray for those whom we love: for those with whom we will be this Christmas; for those far away whom we will miss; for those whom we have loved and lost.

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

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.

*All sit for the following readings and carols.*

## READING

'Bah! Humbug!' – An Excerpt from 'A Christmas Carol'  
Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

**CAROL** *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

*Choir* Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;*  
*This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
So very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance:

*Words:* English Traditional

*Music:* John Gardner (1917-2011)

## READING

'Christmas Bells'

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

**CAROL**     *The Shepherds' Cradle Song*

*Choir*        O sleep thou heaven born treasure, thou  
Sleep sound, thou dearest child;  
White angel wings shall fan thy brow  
With breezes soft and mild.

We shepherds poor are here to sing  
A simple lullaby to our King  
Lullaby, lullaby  
Sleep, sleep softly, lullaby.

See Mary has with mother's love  
A bed for thee outspread  
While Joseph stoops him from above  
And watches at thy head  
The lambkins in the stall so nigh  
That thou may sleep  
Have hushed their cry.

And when thou'rt big and art a man  
Full woe's in store for thee;  
For cruel men thy death will plan  
And hang thee on a tree,  
So sleep, my baby, whilst thou may,  
'Twill give thee rest against that day.

*Words:* German, Tr. A. Foxton Ferguson

*Music:* *Wiegenlied*, Karl Leuner, arr. Charles MacPherson (1870-1927)

## ORGAN AND READING

Christmas Eve at the Temple Church

Vernon Lee (1856-1935)

*All stand.*

CAROL     *O little town of Bethlehem*

*All*            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 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 to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

*Words:* Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Philadelphia 1868  
*Music:* Sir Henry Walford Davies (1865-1941)

*All sit.*

## READING

The Nativity: Luke 2. 1-14

CAROL *Calypso Carol*

*Choir* See him lying on a bed of straw;  
A draughty stable with an open door,  
Mary smiling at the babe she bore;  
The King of Glory is his name.  
*Come along with me to Bethlehem*  
*To see the Saviour who is born for men,*  
*In a stable lying on the straw,*  
*The king of glory evermore.*

See where the star of silver sweeps across the skies  
To show where Jesus in a manger lies.  
Now see the shepherds rise to see the Saviour of the World.

Bright angels, sing again the song you sang  
To bring God's glory to the heart of man;  
For that tiny little baby can become salvation to the soul.

Mine are riches from thy poverty,  
And from thy innocence, eternity;  
Mine, forgiven by thy death for me, thou child of sorrow for my joy.  
Oh come along to Bethlehem, Alleluia,

*Words and music: Michael A. Perry, arr. John Bertalot*

*All stand.*

CAROL *Of the Father's heart begotten*

*All* 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.*

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 Hymnus omnis Horae, translated by R. F. Davis (1866-1937)*

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

*All sit.*

## READING

'Midnight, Christmas Eve'  
Imtiaz Dharker (b. 1954)

*All stand.*

CAROL      *Good King Wenceslas*

*All*            Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even;  
  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight,  
Gath'ring winter fuel.

'Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou know'st it, telling:  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?'

'Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,  
Bring me pine-logs hither;  
Thou and I will see him dine,  
When we bear them thither.'

Page and monarch forth they went,  
Forth they went together,  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather.

'Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer.'

'Mark my footsteps, good my page,  
Tread thou in them boldly;  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the saint had printed.

Therefore, Christian men, be sure —  
Wealth or rank possessing —  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.

*Words:* John M. Neale (1818-1866), in J.M. Neale and T. Helmore *Carols for Christmas-Tide*, 1853

*Music:* Tempus adest floridum, 13<sup>th</sup> century spring carol, published in *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Reginald Jacques

*All remain standing.*

CAROL      *God rest ye merry, Gentlemen*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay;  
Remember, Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas 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 Heavenly 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.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

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 other doth deface.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

*Words and Music:* Traditional, arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*All sit.*

## READING

“Wo-nd-er-ful Happiness” – An Excerpt from ‘A Christmas Carol’  
Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

**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)

*All stand.*

## BLESSING

**M**ay Christ the sun of righteousness arise and scatter the darkness from before your path, that you may be ready to greet him with joy when he is born as a child this Christmas, and to stand before him with confidence when he shall come again to be our judge; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**CAROL**      *Hark! the Herald Angels sing*

*All*      **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 th' 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 th' 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,  
Ris'n 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)

*Music:* J. L. F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, adapted from 'Festgesang' (Op. 68, 1840)

*Descant:* Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Organ Music after the Service*

Prelude on 'Adeste fideles'

*Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*



*The congregation is invited to drinks in the Round Church after the service.  
A donation to help cover our costs will be greatly appreciated.*

*There will be a retiring collection. Baskets and contactless collection points will be  
available at the door; the devices are set at £5 per 'swipe'.*

*It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in the Gift Aid envelope enclosed  
in this Order of Service and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave.*



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## THE TEMPLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 11 December, 11.15 a.m.

*To book your place, kindly contact [catherine@templechurch.com](mailto:catherine@templechurch.com)*

## CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY AND CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

Sunday 11 December, 3.30 p.m. play followed at 4.00 p.m. by tea in

Inner Temple Hall

*Tickets required for the tea only.*

## CONCERT: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Monday 12 December, 7.00 p.m.

The Temple Singers and Temple Players

Tickets required.

This concert is now fully booked!

## CONCERT: CAROLS WITH PRO BONO

Tuesday 13 December, 6.15 p.m.

Supporting the work of Advocate (the Bar Pro Bono Unit) and Law Works.

Tickets required.

*For more information and to book [www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org)*

## THE TEMPLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 15 December, 6.00 p.m.

(Reprise of Sunday 11 December service)

*Tickets not required.*

## THE TEMPLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18 December, 11.15 a.m.

(Reprise of Sunday 11 December service)

*To book your place, kindly contact [Catherine@templechurch.com](mailto:Catherine@templechurch.com)*

## CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT CHORAL COMMUNION

Saturday 24 December, 11.15 p.m.

*Tickets not required.*

## CHRISTMAS DAY: CHORAL MATTINS

Sunday 25 December, 11.15 a.m.

*Tickets not required.*