

A Solemn Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**The Church of
St John the Evangelist**

Gordon

Rector Rev'd Fr Robber Happer

Sunday, 19 December 2021 at 7pm

with

St John's Parish Choir

8am Singers

Organist and acting Director of Music: Nicola Chau

and

The Cathedral Singers

Director: Jim Abraham



Ad sextam Versus.

DEus in adiutorium meū intende.
R. Domine ad adiuuandū me fe-
stina. Gloria patri, & filio, & spi-
ritui sancto. Sicut erat in princi-
pio, & nunc, & semper, & in secu-
la seculorum. Amen. Alleluia. Hymnus.



Order of Service

Prelude: Organ

At 6.55pm, before the Procession, the acolytes light the congregation's candles and the church lights are extinguished for the candlelight procession.

Processional Hymn: 34 *Once in Royal David's City*

The congregation stands as the Cross is raised inside the Nave at the West door in preparation for the hymn.

1 *(Solo)*

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.

2 *(Choir)*

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.

3 *(All)*

**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.**

4 *(All)*

**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 *(All)*

**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 has gone.**

6 *(All)*

**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.**

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Then all standing, the bidding prayer is prayed.

The Bidding Prayer:

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

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 to us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth; for love and unity within the one Church he came to build; and for respect and goodwill among all his people and especially in this our diocese.

The Rector: And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the 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; 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 which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Still standing, all pray:

**All: Our 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 Rector: 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.

Candles are extinguished, the Church lights are turned on, and the congregation sits.

Carol: *A great and mighty wonder*

Sung by the Parish Choir

(German carol melody)

1. A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory
and peace on earth to men!'

2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And Cherubim sing anthems
To shepherd from the sky.

3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans clap your hands.

4. Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born at Bethl'em,
The Saviour and the Lord.

5. And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.

Text: Greek, St Germanus (634-734)

Trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Lector: Chris Russell

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the eighth verse of the third chapter of the book of Genesis.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the First Lesson.

All stand.

Hymn: 33 *Of the Father's heart begotten*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**5. This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophesy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**6. Let the storm and summer sunshine,
gilding stream and sounding shore,
sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
day and night their Lord adore;
let creation join to laud thee
through the ages evermore,
evermore and evermore.**

**7. 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.**

*Latin, Prudentius (348-413)
Trans. R.F. Davis (1866-1937)*

The Congregation sits

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Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

Lector: JK Seo

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the fifteenth verse of the twenty-second chapter of the book of Genesis.

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Carol: *In Dulci Jubilo* (English)
(German 14th century carol melody)

Sung by the 8am Singers

1. *In dulci jubilo* (In sweet jubilation)

Now sing with hearts aglow!

Our delight and pleasure

Lies *in praesepio*; (the manger)

Like sunshine is our treasure

matris in gremio, (on His mother's lap)

Alpha es et O! (Who is Alpha and Omega)

Alpha es et O!

2. *O Jesu parvule*, (O infant Jesus)
 For thee I sing alway;
 Comfort my heart's blindness,
O puer optime; (Child most excellent)
 With all thy loving kindness,
O princeps gloriae. (O Prince of glory)
Trahe me post te! (Draw me after Thee)
Trahe me post te!
3. *O Patris caritas!* (O love of the Father)
O Nati lenitas! (O gentleness of the Son)
 Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina; (For our sins)
 But Thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia, (The joys of heaven)
 O that we were there,
 O that we were there!
4. *Ubi sunt gaudia*, (Where are those joys)
 In any place but there?
 There are Angels singing
Nova cantica, (New songs)
 And there the bells are ringing
In Regis curia. (In the King's court)
 O that we were there,
 O that we were there!

Text: 14th Century German Carol
Trans.by SP, from Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Lector: Bridget Lennon

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the second verse of the ninth chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

The 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.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Third Lesson.

All stand.

Hymn: 19ii *Come, thou Redeemer of the earth*

- 1. Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall.
Such birth befits the God of all.**
- 2. Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.**
- 3. O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.**
- 4. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.**
- 5. O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**



St Ambrose (340-97)

Trans. J.M. Neale (1818-66) et al

The Congregation sits.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

Lector: Catherine Barker

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the eleventh chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Fourth Lesson.

Please stand for the Gospel Canticle during which the Altar is censed.

Canticle: Magnificat in E minor

Sung by the Cathedral Singers

(Daniel Purcell)

*Antiphon: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations,
and their Salvation: Come and save us O Lord, our God.*

✠ My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his

servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Antiphon: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations,
and their Salvation: Come and save us O Lord, our God.*

The Congregation sits.



Fifth Lesson: St Luke 1:26-38

Lector: David Barker

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the twenty-sixth verse of the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Fifth Lesson.

All stand.

Hymn: 39 *Unto us a boy is born.*

**1. Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.**

**2. Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That He all men surpasses.**

**3. Herod then with fear was filled:
‘A prince’, he said, ‘In Jewry!’
And all little boys be killed
At Bethlem in his fury.**

**4. Now may Mary’s Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.**

**5. Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.**

*Latin, 15th century
Trans. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

The Congregation sits.

Sixth Lesson: St Luke 2:1, 3-7

Lector: Sarah Pillai

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the first verse of the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, 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.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Sixth Lesson.

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
(H. Walford Davies)

Sung by The Parish Choir

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. For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth.

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,
the dear Christ enters in.

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!

Text: Bishop Phillips Brookes (1835-1893)

All stand.

Hymn: 42 *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night.*

**1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**2. ‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.**

**3. ‘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:**

**4. The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.’**

**5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:**

**6. ‘All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’**

Nahum Tate (152-1715)

The Congregation sits

Seventh Lesson: St Luke 2:8-16

Lector: James Winter

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the eighth verse of the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

And 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 now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Seventh Lesson.

Carol: *Gabriel's Voice*

Sung by the Cathedral Singers

(Ian Higginson)

1. Mother most blessed with arms full of love,
Cradled the Saviour sent from above.
Born so that man may always rejoice
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.
As he proclaimed before the dawn,
Unto a virgin a child will be born.
2. Warm in a manger there he would lay,
Sleeping so soundly safe in the hay.
Born so that man may always rejoice
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.
As he proclaimed after the dawn
Unto a virgin a child will be born.
3. Shepherds kept watch over flocks in the night
Gazing in awe, their eyes filled with delight.
Here was the Saviour; they would rejoice
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.
Behold a star above in the sky,
Telling the wise men the Christ child is nigh.

4. Bearing their gifts so precious and rare,
Kneeling in homage in a stable so bare.
Jewels that shone and hearts that rejoiced
At the message delivered by Gabriel's voice.
Amen, amen on this wondrous morn,
Unto a virgin a child has been born.

Text: Carol Gunn

Eighth Lesson: St Matthew 2:1-11

Lector: Fr Ernest Chau

The Lector saith: Here beginneth the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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 Judaea: 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, enquired 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.

After a short pause, the Lector concludeth: Here endeth the Eighth Lesson.

Carol: Coventry Carol

Sung by the Parish Choir

(English 16th century carol)

*Lully lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay*

1. Oh sisters two, what may we do,
For to preserve on this day
This poor youngling, for whom we sing
By, by, lully, lullay?

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

3. That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting, neither say nor sing
By, by, lully, lullay.

Text: From the Coventry Shearmen and Tailors' pageant

All stand and face the Gospeller as the Word of God is proclaimed from amongst His people.

Gospel Alleluia

Brett McKern, ©2010

Al - le - lu - - - ia, al - le - lu - - -

ia, al - le - lu - - - - - ia.

Alleluia verse:

Cantor Glory to God in the | highest:
peace to his | people on earth.

Remain standing, facing the Gospeller.

Ninth Lesson: St John 1:1-14

Gospeller: the Rector, Fr Robert Happer

Gospeller *All*
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Gospeller
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All
+Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospeller In 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 anything 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.

Gospeller *All*
This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All remain standing, and the congregation turns back to face east during the Gospel recession for the singing of the hymn.

Hymn: 30 *O Come all ye faithful*

**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:**

**3. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with holy fear
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:**

**4. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee
with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*



5. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God,
glory in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

*Latin 18th Century
Trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80)*

Remain standing.

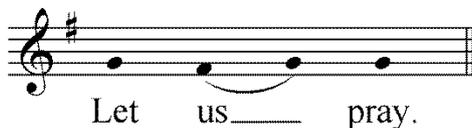
Rector:



All:

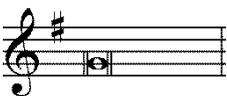


Rector:



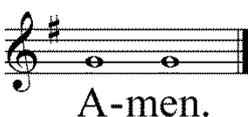
All kneel.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent:

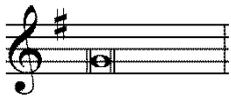


Rector: O Lord, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end.

All:

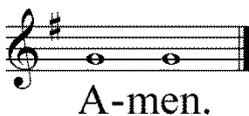


Collect for Advent:



Rector: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:



All stand.

Hymn: 26 *Hark the Herald-angels sing*

**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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

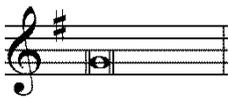
**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel: *Refrain***

**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.***

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

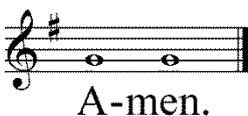
All remain standing for the Blessing.

Blessing:



Rector: Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always.

All:



Recession & Organ Postlude

The congregation remains standing until the clergy, choirs and sanctuary party have left the Church in recession.

Christmas 2021 at St John's

24 December	5pm	Children's Eucharist (Family Eucharist for Christmas)
24 December	11pm	Midnight Mass (Sung Eucharist)
25 December	8.00am	Choral Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day
26 December	9.00am	Sung Eucharist

Acknowledgements

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