

# **Christ Church, New Mill**

## **Service of Readings and Carols (Web edition)**

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*Bible passages are taken from the Net Bible ([www.netbible.org](http://www.netbible.org)) with in some cases minor alterations to improve continuity where verses have been omitted.*

**Sunday, December 19th 2004, 4.00pm.**

*Welcome to Christ Church, New Mill, and especially to this celebration of the Nativity of our Lord in words and music. You are invited to stand and join in the items marked “HYMN”, and sit or kneel as appropriate for the other items. We hope you enjoy the service.*

*The service starts with the dimming of the lights.*

**CAROL:** *from The Wexford Carol. (Irish trad.)*

Good people all, this Christmas-time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

**READING:** Genesis 1:1, 26-28, 31

The Creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth.”

God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground.

God saw all that he had made—and it was very good.

## HYMN

When God at first created man,  
His image for to be,  
And how he made him by his power,  
we may in scripture see.  
And how he framed his helpmate Eve  
The scripture doth us tell;  
Being free from sin, God placed them both  
in paradise to dwell.

Man being entered in that place  
(We plainly understand),  
The glory of it having seen,  
God gave them this command:  
Be sure thou eat not of the tree  
Which in the midst doth stand;  
In eating it thou sure shalt die,  
And perish from the land.

The serpent then hath Eve beguiled,  
That she thereof did eat,  
And likewise gave unto the man,  
As scripture doth repeat.  
And so they both broke God's command,  
Committing of this thing;  
Likewise the heavy wrath of God  
Upon them both did bring.

Man being now with grief oppressed,  
Not knowing where to go;  
His soul before being filled with joy,  
Is now oppressed with woe.  
But see the mercy of the Lord,  
To save man's soul from hell;  
His Son he promised to send down,  
That he with us might dwell.

*(Words English trad., adapted by D. Gilbert 1822. Music trad. Adapted by A. Sullivan 1842-1900).*

**CAROL:** Adam lay y-bounden (*Words anon. 15th C. Music by Boris Ord*)

Adam lay y-bounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady a been heavené queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias.

**READING:** Isaiah 11: 1-3, 6-9; 9:2, 6-7

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of Christ.

A shoot will grow out of Jesse's root stock, a bud will sprout from his roots.

The LORD's spirit will rest on him—  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and of power  
the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

He will take delight in obeying the LORD.

The wolf will reside with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
an ox and a young lion will graze together,  
And a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze together,  
their young will lie down together.

A lion, like an ox, will eat straw.

A baby will play near the hole of a snake;

A young child will put his hand into the nest of a serpent. They will no longer injure or  
destroy

on my entire royal mountain.

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, just as the waters completely cover  
the sea.

The people walking in darkness have seen a bright light;  
light has shined on those who live in a land of deep darkness.

For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us.

And the government will be upon his shoulders.

and he will be called: Wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.

His dominion will be vast and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.

He will rule on David's throne

and over David's kingdom,  
establishing it and strengthening it

by promoting justice and fairness,  
from this time forward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**HYMN:**

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*(Words 12-13th C., trans J.M. Neale 1818-66. Music adapted by T. Helmore 1811-90 from a French missal)*

**SOLO:** from *The Christmas Oratorio*. Music by J.S. Bach 1685-1750.  
*Words Luke 2: 1-6*

Now it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to enrol themselves, every one to his own city. And there also went up Joseph from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, for he was of the house and family of David, to enrol himself with Mary his betrothed wife, being great with child. And when they were there the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered.

**READING:** Luke 2: 7 : The birth of Jesus

And she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## HYMN:

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.

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.

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 Immanuel!

*(Words P. Brooks 1835-93; Music trad. Arr. R.V Williams, 1872-1958)*

**CAROL:** *A Spotless Rose* (Words 14th C., Music by H. Howells 1892-1983)

A spotless Rose is blooming, 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 God's great love and might,  
the Blessed Babe she bare us, in a cold, cold winter's night.

**READING:** *A meditation for Christmas.* (by Selwyn Image 1849-1930)

Consider, O my soul, what morn is this!  
Whereon the eternal Lord of all things made,  
For us poor mortals, and our endless bliss,  
Came down from heaven: and, in a manger laid  
The first, rich, offerings of our ransom paid:  
Consider, O my soul, what morn is this!

Consider what estate of fearful woe  
Had then been ours, had he refused this birth;  
From sin to sin tossed vainly to and fro,  
Hell's playthings, o'er a doomed and helpless earth!  
had he from us withheld his priceless worth,  
Consider man's estate of fearful woe!

Consider to what joys he bids thee rise,  
Who comes, himself, life's bitter cup to drain!  
Ah! Look on this sweet Child, whose innocent eyes  
Ere all be done, shall close in mortal pain,  
That thou at last Love's Kingdom may'st attain:  
Consider to what joys he bids thee rise!

Consider all this wonder, O my soul;  
And in thine inmost shrine make music sweet!  
Yea, let this world, from furthest pole to pole,  
Join in thy praises this dread birth to greet;  
Kneeling to kiss thy Saviour's infant feet!  
Consider all this wonder, O my soul.

**HYMN:**

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.

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.

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.

*(Words J. Mohr 1792-1848, trans. J.F. Young 1820-85. Music by F. Gruber 1787-1863)*

**READING:** Colossians 1: 15-23. Christ is born to be supreme.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible; whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities: all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church: he is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. This is the gospel that you heard and has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

**ARIA:** from *The Christmas Oratorio*. Music by J.S. Bach 1685-1750.  
Mighty Lord and King all glorious, Saviour true, for man victorious,  
Earthly state thou dost disdain. He who all things doth sustain, who all  
state and pomp supplieth, in a lowly manger lieth.

## **READING:** Luke 2: 8-20. The shepherds visit the baby Jesus.

Now there were shepherds nearby out in the field, keeping guard over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: Today your Saviour is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people on whom his favour rests”

When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us.” So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said.

But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean.

So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

## **HYMN:**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The 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 meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

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

'All glory be to God on high  
And on the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*(Words N. Tate 1652-1715. Music from Este's Psalter, 1592)*

**CAROL:** Noel Nouvelet. (Words French 16th C., trans. W. Martin. Music arr. Peter Hurford, b. 1930)

*(Published by RSCM in "The Birthday of Christ")*

**READING:** Matthew 2: 1-17.

Herod's Response to the birth of Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is he who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "as was written by the prophet.

Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well." After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back by another route to their own country.

After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to look for the child to kill him.” Then he got up, took the child and his mother at night, and went to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. In this way what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet was fulfilled:

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became enraged. He sent men to kill all the children in Bethlehem and nearby from the age of two and under, according to the time he had learned from the wise men.

**CAROL:** Coventry Carol *From the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, arr. M. Shaw 1875-1958*

Lully, lulla thou little tiny child, By by, lully, lullay.  
O sisters too, how may we do for to preservethis day.  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing, by by, lully, lallay?  
Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.  
That woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

**HYMN:**

Unto us is born a Son,  
King of quires supernal  
See on earth his life begun,  
Of Lords the Lord eternal,  
Of Lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger  
Ox and ass their owner know,  
Becradled in the manger,  
Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod soreaffray,  
And grievously bewilder,  
So he gave the word to slay,

And slew the little childer,  
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild  
This the Christmas story;  
And O that Mary's gentle child  
Might lead us up to glory,  
Might lead us up to glory.

O and A, and A and O,  
Cum cantibus in choro,  
Let our merry organ go,  
Benedicamus Domino,  
Benedicamus Domino.

*(Words & melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582)*

**READING:** To Mary, my mother. *(by Donald Hilton)*

*(Published in "No Empty Phrases" by Donald Hilton)*

**CAROL:** Joys Seven *(English trad. Arr. S. Cleobury, b. 1948)*

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one;  
To see the blessed Jesus Christ, when he was first her son:  
*When he was first her son, good man: and blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three;  
To see her own son Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four;  
To see her own son Jesus Christ, to read the bible o'er.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six;  
To see her own son Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix.

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of seven;  
To see her own son Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heaven.

**READING:** John 1: 1-14. The Christmas Gospel.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created by him, and apart from him nothing was created that has been created. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it. A man came, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light so that everyone may believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him. But to all who have received him—those who believe in his name—he has given the right to become God’s children —children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband’s decision, but by God.

Now the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.

**HYMN:**

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 this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing:

*Words & melody by J.F. Wade 1711-86*

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, we may with confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge;

Who is alive and reigns with you and the holy spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us always.

Amen.

## **HYMN:**

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 Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
'Glory to the new-born King.'

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 men 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.'

*Words by C. Wesley 1707-88; Music by Mendelssohn 1809-47*

