

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Carols and Lessons Audio Podcast

12th December
2021



Led by Revd Natasha

Carol 1: Once in Royal David's City

- 1 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 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 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 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 Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895), sung by St Martin's Voices, with soloist Victoria Meteyard. (CCLI 4756015)

Welcome and prayer

We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love and all who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

The Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

Lesson One:

Genesis 22.15-19a God's promise given

Jennifer Pickering

Carol 2: It came upon the midnight clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And ye beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;

oh rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) Public Domain. Sung by St Martin's Voices

Lesson Two:

Isaiah 60.1-6,19

The Glory of the Lord will come

Simon McDowell

Carol 3: Longing for light, we wait in darkness

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*
- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Chorus
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Chorus
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stones.

Chorus

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

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Lesson Three:

Matthew 1.18-25 Joseph's Dream

Ann Sibley

Carol 4: O little town of Bethlehem

- 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 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.
- 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, still
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 to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) #CCLI 7004604. Sung by St Martin's Voices

Lesson Four:

Luke 2. 1-7

The Messiah's birth

Nigel Lowe

Reflective Carol 5: O holy night

... please listen as the choir sing

*John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893) based on Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), sung by the St Martin Voices.
Public Domain.*

Lesson Five:

Luke 2.8-16

The Shepherds and the Angels

Janet Cottrell

Carol 6: Joy to the world

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) sung by St Martin's Voices. Public Domain

Collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lesson Six:

John 1. 1-14 The word becomes flesh and dwells with us.

Richard Beckingsale

Carol 7: Silent Night

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

John Freeman Young (1887) based on Joseph Mohr (1818). Sung by St Martin's Voices. #CCLI 5894127

Address:

Revd Natasha

Prayers and blessing

Hidden God, we long for your coming.

We are restless to know your presence with us.

We will wait and watch – awake each day to the signs of your arriving.

Amen.

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and ever more.

Amen.

Carol 8: O come all ye faithful: verses 1-3

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;
Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:
Refrain

*Translated from the Latin by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880) #CCLI 5386491
Sung by St Martin's Voices*

**Thank you for joining us for Carols & Lessons
today ...**



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