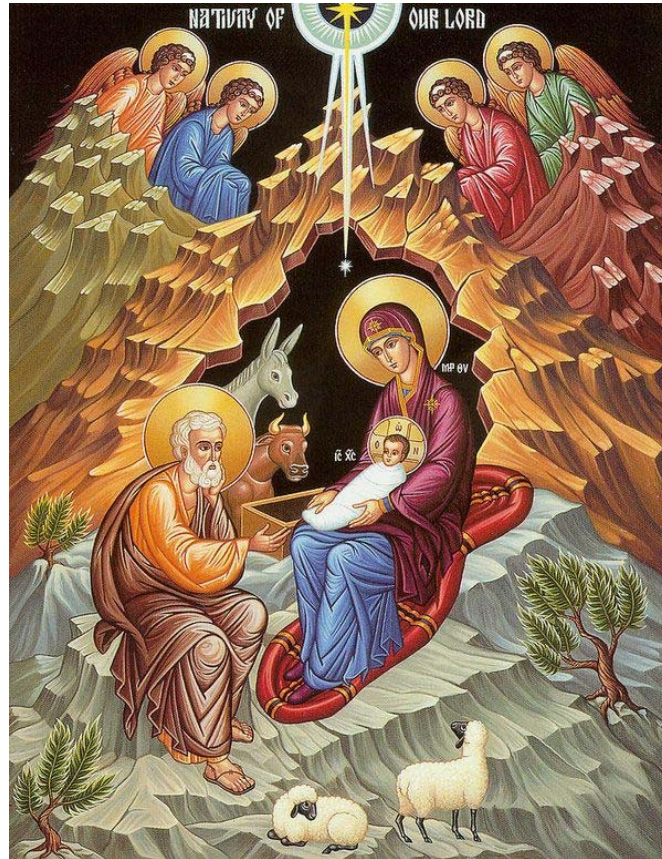


Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley

7.30pm Wednesday 21 December 2022

Welcome to St Bart's!

We are an inner-city Anglican church in the progressive catholic tradition welcoming people of any race, language, culture, age, ability, gender or sexual orientation.



We recognize and give honour to the first peoples of Australia, and especially of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations, past, present, and emerging, the traditional custodians of the land on which this parish has its mission and ministry.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BURNLEY

Our Vision

To live as citizens of, and invite others into, God's Kingdom.

Our Mission

The Mission of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley, is to be a community who values the blessings and trust in the promises of God's Kingdom within the cultural and social context of Richmond, Melbourne:

- To live humbly before God and with all people
- To be dependent on God's comfort
- To be gentle with people and all Creation
- To hunger and thirst for the right ways of God
- To show mercy and compassion toward others
- To live with purity in motive and deed
- To be passionate for peace
- To persevere in the face of opposition

Based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) Adopted by the 2015 Annual Meeting

CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENT

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley commits to meeting all of the standards of the Child Safety Code of Conduct of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, and the Victorian Government's mandatory Child Safe Standards (Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015, Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Oversight and Enforcement of Child Safe Standards) Act 2016). The parish community seeks to promote the cultural safety of all children, including Aboriginal children, who come to us from a culturally or linguistically diverse background. We also seek to ensure the safety of any child with a disability. The parish community affirms that all children who come to St Bartholomew's have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to ensuring that children's best interests are met within our parish. We have zero tolerance towards child abuse. The parish community actively works to listen to and empower children within our community.

Facilities including disabled and baby change room are located in the front entrance of the main hall. Enter via the main door of the hall. For all able access see welcomer.



If you want to ensure regular giving to St Bart's, but find you never have the right amount in cash, or are sometimes unable to attend on Sundays, then

St Bart's Direct Transfer may work for you.

Account Name: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Burnley

BSB: 703 122

Account Number: 05009430

As a reference you can use your own name, or you can use 'Offering' & your name will remain anonymous with your personal details not appearing on the St Bart's bank statement.

Celebrant:	Rev Graeme Brennan
Assisting:	Rev Jim Brady and Tim Collison
Director of Music:	Linda Kent
Choir:	Janette Fly, Rachel Lim, Dr Muriel Porter Jillian Smith, Dr Garry Warne
Readers:	Ann Brady, Tim Collison, Evan Costello, Kathy Kozlowski, Stuart Moran, Kim Ricketts, Janis Sheldrick

Foreword

This evening's celebration of Lessons and Carols stems from the famous Kings College Chapel's annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast each year on Christmas Eve. It has been adapted for use by many churches since it was first held at Kings College in 1918. Not surprisingly, there are many traditions associated with such a venerable institution as this Festival. Since 1919, it has been common practice at Kings to begin with the hymn *"Once in royal David's City"* and the first verse of that hymn is often sung by a chorister who is chosen at the very last minute, so that he doesn't have the time to get nervous.

There was in fact an earlier service, beginning in 1880 in Truro, drawn from ancient sources by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury and described by his son as *"a little service for Christmas Eve"* – nine carols and nine tiny lessons that were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister and ending with a Bishop reading the final lesson. That tradition still continues at Kings College.

The lessons and prayers provide the backbone of the service from year to year but the music is always a mixture of old and new.

The closing lines of the old traditional Bidding Prayer, *"let us remember those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in greater light"* must have spoken poignantly to those at the first service in 1918, remembering their recent war dead, but they are certainly no less meaningful today. Earlier in the same prayer, the people are asked to pray for the mission of the Church in this country and this city. We here at St Bart's have moulded the service of Lessons and Carols to fit our own parish worship but, however it is adapted, the opening Bidding Prayer, the lessons and the music all try to connect us to a Story that has shaped us all.

GATHERING

Organ prelude: "In dulci Jubilo" BWV 729 by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Processional Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Choir: O come, O come Emmanuel
 Redeem thy captive Israel
 That into exile drear is gone
 From the face of God's dear Son (God's dear Son)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, thou branch of Jesse draw
 The quarry from the lion's claw
 From the dread caverns of the grave
 From nether hell thy people save
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

All: O come, O come thou dayspring bright
 Pour on our souls thy healing light
 Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom
 And pierce the shadows of the tomb
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, thou Lord of David's key
 The royal door fling wide and free
 Safeguard for us the heav'nward road
 And bar the way to death's abode
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, O come Adonai
 Who in thy glorious majesty
 From that high mountain clothed with awe
 Gavest thy folk the elder law
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

Text by T.A. Lacey (1853-1931), Plainsong melody (15th C)

Welcome

Bidding

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. 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.

Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

Opening Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Invitatory Carol

Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen

German carol melody harmonised by Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)

Organ

*"To God on High be glory,
And peace on earth to all."*

The Word

First Lesson

The Book of Genesis, Chapter 3, verses 8-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his sin will bruise the serpent's head*

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'

He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?'

The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Thanks be to God.

First Carol

"Adam Lay Ybounden"

Anonymous 15th C carol arranged by Boris Ord, Linda Kent

Sung by Choir

*Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkës finden
Written in their book.
Ne had one apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady
A-been heaven's queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!*

Second Lesson

The Book of Genesis 22: 15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Thanks be to God.

Second Carol

"People Look East to see at last" – Sung by Choir

People look east to see at last
 Hopes fulfilled from ages past:
 Now in the promise of the morning,
 See, a brighter day is dawning,
 Rich with the visions long foretold,
 Prophets' dreams from days of old.

God reaffirms the gracious call:
 Words of welcome meant for all;
 Comfort enough for all our sorrows;
 Justice shaping new tomorrows.
 Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,
 Freed to praise and serve the Lord.

Now, with the coming of the light,
 Darkest fears are put to flight;
 See how the clous of gloom are clearing,
 Blown aside by hope's appearing.
 Jesus, the Light of all our days,
 Come and sets our hears ablaze.

Third Lesson

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them has light shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

Third Carol

"It came upon the midnight clear" – Sung by Choir and Congregation

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 all,
from heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

3. **Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man at war with man hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
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 send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Text by E. H. Sears (1810-1876), traditional English tune, adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Fourth Lesson

The Book of the Prophet Micah 5:2-4

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

Fourth Carol

"And did you see him, little star" – Sung by Choir

And did you see him, little star,
Long, long ago?
And was it you, I wonder, shone
On manger low?
And did you see the Shepherd men
When angels sang?
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,'
The message rang.

And did you guide the three wise kings
With shining light?
And bring them to the holy child
On that great night?
And will you still shine down on earth,
Though from afar,
And lead us back to Bethlehem,
O little star?

Text by Helen Diana Clyde (1889-1983), Music by Colin Alexander Gibson

Fifth Lesson

The Gospel of Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

Fifth Carol

"The Angel Gabriel"

Sung by Choir and Congregation

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

**"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
"most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

(Solo) *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
 "To me be as it pleases God," she said.
 "My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name."
 Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
 in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
 And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
 "Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

Anonymous carol, translated from Basque by S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Sixth Lesson

The Gospel of Luke 2: 1, 3-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Sixth Carol

"Il est né le divin enfant" French traditional carol – Sung by Choir

*Il est né le divin enfant,
 Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes;
 Il est né le divin enfant,
 Chantons tous son avènement.*

**'Tis four thousand years and more
Men his birth have been prophesying;
'Tis four thousand years and more
While we longed for the joys in store.**

**Ah! Such beauty and charm adore!
Ah! such perfection of grace undying!
Ah! Such beauty and charm adore!
Promised us in days of yore.**

**Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Oboes rejoice with bagpipes vying;
Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Sing to welcome the Saviour mild.**

French Traditional Carol arranged by L. Kent

Seventh Lesson

*The Gospel of Luke 2: 8-20
The Shepherds go to the Manger*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them – “Do not be afraid – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God.

Seventh Carol

"Unto us a boy is born" (Puer Nobis)

Sung by Choir and Congregation

*Unto us a boy is born!
King of quires supernal
See on earth his life begun
Of lords the Lord eternal*

*This did Herod sore afrac
And grievously bewilder
So he gave the word to slay
And slew the little childer*

*Christ from heav'n descending low
Comes on earth a stranger
Ox and ass their owner know
Be cradles in the manger*

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

*O and A and A and O
Cum cantibus in choro
Let our mercy organ go
Benedicamus Domino*

Text by G.R. Woodward (1848-1934), Tune from Piaae Cantiones (1582),

Eighth Lesson

The Gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for

so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God.

Eighth Carol

"The First Nowell"

Sung by Choir and Congregation

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:**

***Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!***

**They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night: *[Refrain]***

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went: ***[Refrain]***

**This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay: [Refrain]**

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense: [Refrain]

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood our life hath bought: [Refrain]**

English traditional carol, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

"Sussex Carol" – *Sung by Choir*

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring –
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should all on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should all on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
 Then life and health come in its place;
 When sin departs before his grace,
 Then life and health come in its place;
 Angels and men with joy may sing,
 All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
 Which made the angels sing this night;
 All out of darkness we have light,
 Which made the angels sing this night;
 'Glory to God and peace to all,
 Now and forever more. Amen.'

English traditional carol, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Ninth Lesson

The Gospel of John 1: 1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

Ninth Carol - Offertory Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" – Sung by Choir and Congregation

**Of the Father's love 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.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Spirit conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
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.**

Corde natus ex parentis – Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – c.413) translated by Robert Furley Davis (1866-1937) Melody from Piaae Cantoiones, 1582, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

The Prayers

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the
Spirit of truth . . .

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice
and righteousness . . .

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew
our communities . . .

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer . . .
your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth, as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Concluding 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 as
our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall
come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Final Carol

*"Hark! the herald angels sing"
Sung by Choir and Congregation*

**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.'**

***Refrain: 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 with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]**

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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give them second birth.**

[Refrain]

Text by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) et al, music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ postlude

Reflection: The Highway of Humility

The essential witness of faith can be stated quite simply. A Light we can bear to look at, comes to us from a Light we cannot bear to look at even whilst we worship it.

The mystery of Reality enters history very gently by a human channel, and shows the character of Perfect Love within the life of man; gives us something to hold on to, a Truth which is also a Way and a Life.

What we see is not very sensational: but if ye look at it steadily, it pierces the heart. First we see a baby, and a long hidden growth; and then the unmeasured outpouring and self-spending of an other-worldly love and mercy, teaching, healing, rescuing and transforming, but never trying to get anything for itself.

And when we look deeper, we see beyond this a mysterious self-imparting, and a more mysterious anguish and struggle; consummated at last in the most generous and lonely of deaths, issuing in a victory which has given life ever since to men's souls.

Through this vivid life – what Christ does and how He does it, His prayer, His compassionate healing action. His use of suffering, His communion with God and man – the light of Reality floods our twilit inner lives; showing us the human transfigured by the Divine. This is what St. Ignatius Loyola intended and desired when he taught his pupils to '*contemplate the Mysteries of the Life of Christ.*'

Few people do it properly. They are too anxious to get on and be practical: for the lesson of the one thing needful is a lesson which human nature instinctively resists.

Yet we shall make our own small work of art all the better if we soak our souls in that beauty first.

Evelyn Underhill

Ministry Team

To prevent internet spamming 'at' replaces the @ symbol

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KEEP THE DATE!

Thursday, 22 December

10.00am Mass

Saturday, 24 December – CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00pm Family Service

11.00pm Carols, Blessing of the Crib & Midnight Mass

Sunday, 25 December – CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am SUNG MASS

Thursday within Christmas Octave, 29 December

10.00am MASS

Sunday, 1 January 2023 – Feast of the Epiphany

10.00am MASS

Sunday, 8 January 2023 – Baptism of Our Lord

10.00am MASS

Sunday, 15 January 2023 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am MASS

Sunday, 22 January 2023 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am MASS – Guest Preacher

Sunday, 29 January 2023 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am Mass *followed by Summer Garden Party*

Thursday, 2 February – The Presentation (Candlemas)

10.00am MASS

Sunday, 5 February 2023 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am SUNG MASS & 5.00pm MASS

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

7.30pm Parish Council Meeting