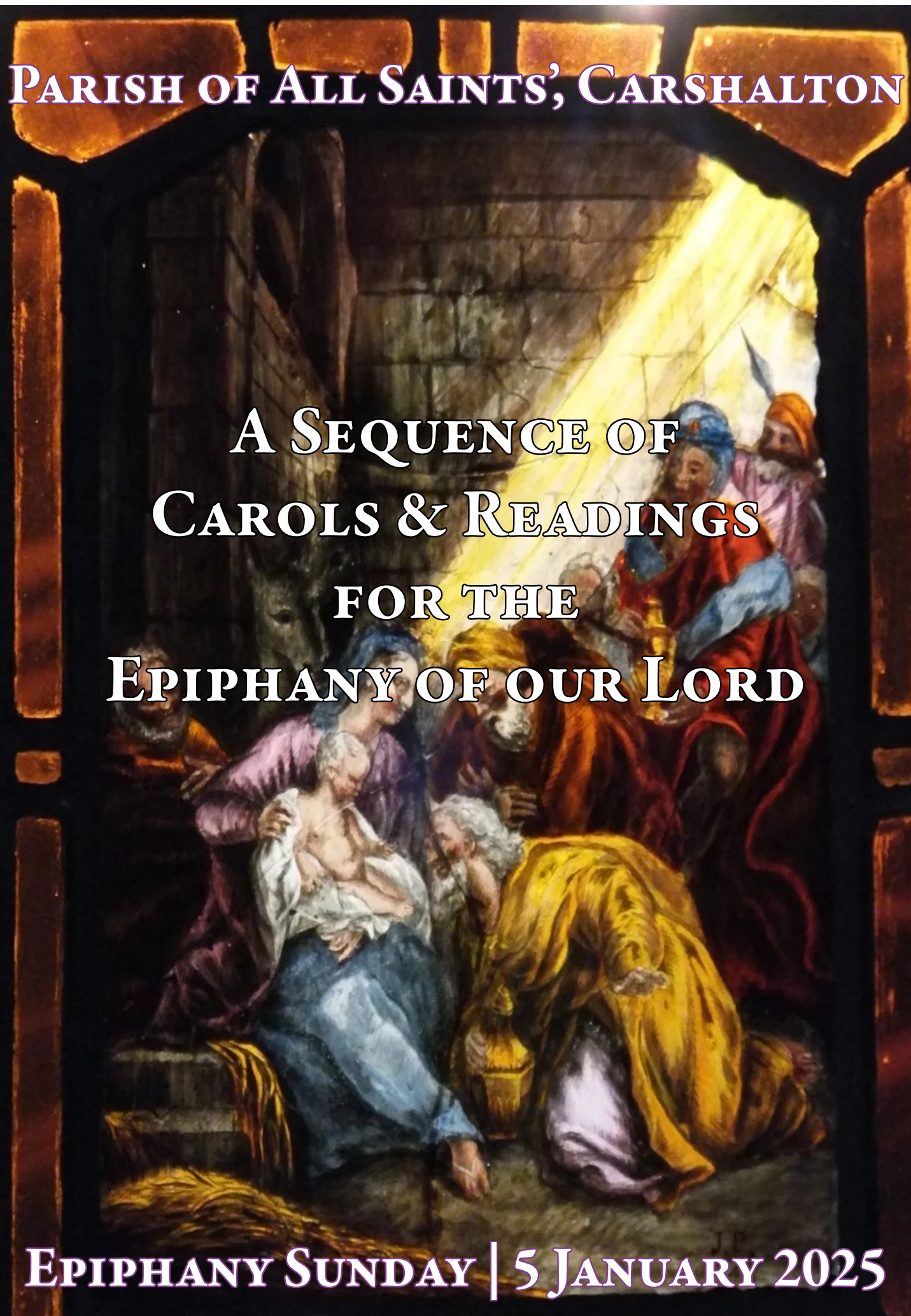


PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, CARSHALTON



A SEQUENCE OF
CAROLS & READINGS
FOR THE
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

EPIPHANY SUNDAY | 5 JANUARY 2025

Organ Prelude

The Choir sings the Introit from the Baptistry

Arise, Shine O Jerusalem

Arise, shine O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon Thee.

We have seen his star in the East: and are coming with gifts to worship him.

The Kings of Tharsis and the isles shall give presents: the Kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

All Kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall do him service.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

Arise, shine O Jerusalem: for the glory of the Lord is risen upon Thee.

Words: Matin Respond for the Epiphany.

Music: adapt. from a Magnificat by Giovanni, Pierluigi da Palestrina,
Francis Jackson and Philip Moore

One of the clergy reads the first lesson:

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 any thing 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.

Thanks be to God.

John 1: 1 – 14

STAND to sing

**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.**

**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.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;**

**This is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**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.**

**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.**

The Rector reads the Bidding Prayer

Brothers and sisters, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world. We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. Amen.

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father,
who 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.
Amen.**

The Word Made Flesh

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

Arise, shine, for your light has come:

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit for the Second Reading.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2: 18-23

The Choir sings the Anthem

In the bleak mid-winter

*In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.*

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:

In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day, A breast-ful of milk, and a manger-ful of hay:

Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, The ox and ass and camel which adore.

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and Seraphim throned the air
But only his mother in her maiden bliss Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

Words: Christina Rossetti.

Music: Gustav Holst

STAND to sing

**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.**

**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.**

**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, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!**

**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.**

Words: Edmund Sears.

Music: NOEL, trad. English melody adapt. by Arthur Sullivan; desc. by Paul Leddington-Wright

Please sit for the Third Reading.

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; for see - 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, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed 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.

Luke 2:8-20

The Choir sings the anthem

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing

*Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come a-blowing, shepherds, in flowery fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?*

*What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the daystar waking, started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes.*

*Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away.*

*Praise to the Lord of all creation, glory to God the fount o grace;
May peace abide in every nation, goodwill in men of every race.
Praise to the Lord of all creation, glory to God the fount of grace.*

Words: trad. French carol, trans. Allen Ramsey and David Willcocks.

Music: trad. French carol, arr. David Willcocks

STAND to sing

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

**From God our heav'nly Father
a blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:**

**The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:**

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:**

Words: trad. English carol.

Music: GOD REST YOU MERRY, trad. English carol arr. David Willcocks

The King of the Nations

Over you will the Lord arise: over you will his glory appear.
Nations will stream to your light:
And kings to your dawning brightness.

Almighty Father, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please sit for the Fourth Reading

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 being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

The Choir sings the Anthem

What child is this?

*What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him praise, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the Cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail! Hail the Word Made Flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own him!
The King of Kings salvation brings: let loving hearts enthrone him!
Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings here lullaby.
Joy! Joy! For Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

*What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

STAND to sing

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we, with willing feet,
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.**

WORDS: 18th century Latin, trans. Frederick Oakeley.

TUNE: *Adeste Fidelis*, trad. English carol, arr. David Willcocks

Please sit for the Fifth Reading Matthew 2: 13 – 18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

Thanks be to God.

Please sit as the Choir sings the Anthem

Lully, lulla

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

*O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day?
This poor young-ling for whom we sing,
by, by, lully, lullay!*

*Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sign
all children young to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting nor say nor sing,
by, by, lully, lullay!*

Words: 15th Century English, from the Coventry Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors

Music: Kenneth Leighton

STAND to sing

**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 heav'n descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
be-cradled in the manger,
be-cradled in the manger.**

**This did Herod sore affray,
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: Latin, trans George Woodward

TUNE: *Puer Nobis*, melody from *Piae Cantiones* 1582

Light to the World

I am the root and the offspring of David: I am the bright morning star. Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Call upon him while he is near.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature: may we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit for the Sixth Reading

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:22-32

The Choir sings the Anthem

Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.*

Words: Luke 2: 29-31.

Music: Evening Service in D, Herbert Brewer, 1865-1928

Please stand for Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Three mysteries mark this holy day: Today the star leads the magi to the infant Christ; today, water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptised by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation.

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who at the river Jordan descended upon the Beloved Son,
in the likeness of a dove, pour out his gifts on you who have been washed in the waters of new birth.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you this Epiphany and always.
Amen.

We sing

**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.
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.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell***

**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.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell***

**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.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell***

**Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presènce
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell***

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell***

Words: trad. English.

Music: *THE FIRST NOWELL*, trad. English melody arr. David Willcocks

Organ Voluntary

Giving at All Saints'

It's your generosity which helps this Parish Church to thrive!
If you'd like to donate towards the work of this church this evening, please use one of the Contactless machines by the West and North doors, or cash into one of the boxes.

Alternatively, using your smart phone, do scan this QR code (which will also enable UK taxpayers to Gift Aid their donation):



Thank you and God bless you.