



9 Lessons and Carols Service

Saturday 30th November 2024, 4pm

Wesley Uniting Church,
Forrest ACT

Liturgist and Music Coordinator: Jade McFaul

Minister: Geoff Dornan

Organist: Callum Tolhurst-Close

Readers: Sonia di Mezza, Kaisa Henderson, Robert Woolston, Ann Sutton, Tarlie Alcock, Gregor Henderson, Grace Ryu, Rosemary Everett, Colin Milner.

Sopranos:

Evangeline Osborne
Greta Claringbould
Jan Sismey
Robyn Dean

Altos:

Glenda MacDowell
Heather Nash
Sabine Friedrich
Sarah Heartwood

Tenors:

Colin Milner
David Faraker
Thomas Liu

Basses:

Barrie Virtue
Chris Emery
Ian Diamond
Martin Magill

Preludes

Chorale Prelude on 'Nun komm, der Heidan Heiland' (Saviour of the nations, come),
BWV659 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet Auf' (Sleeper's Wake), BWV645 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Once in Royal David's City

H. J. Gauntlet, harm. A. H. Mann, descant and organ by David Willcocks, words by C. F. Alexander

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. 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 know:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**5. 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 is gone.**

**6. 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.**

Welcome

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet, the Ngunnawal People. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all descendants of this Nation who have cared for this place since creation. We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

The Uniting Church in Australia believes that all people are made in the image of God and as such we should accept every individual regardless of race, age, creed or gender. All are welcome in this space.

Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Friends in Christ, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas, be it our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and **with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his mother's arms.**

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Church, glad with our carols of praise:

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace on and goodwill over the earth; for unity and **community** within the Church he came to build. We also keep close to our hearts and in our prayers and action, the victims of injustice, those who struggle with physical and emotional health, the lonely, the aged and children.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in the faith, and those many who have died in the faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh.

These prayers and praises we offer in the words which Christ himself taught us:

Our Father in heaven,	as we forgive those who sin against us.
hallowed be your name,	Lead us not into temptation,
your kingdom come,	but deliver us from evil.
your will be done on earth as in heaven.	For the kingdom, the power, and the
Give us today our daily bread.	glory are yours
Forgive us our sins	now and for ever. Amen.

Wachet auf! (Wake, O Wake)

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750), words by Philipp Nicolai, trans. Francis Birkitt

*'Wachet auf!' ruft uns die Stimme
Der Wächter, sehr hoch auf der Sinne;
'Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!
Mitternacht heisst dieser Stunde;
Sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:
'Wo seid ihr, klugen Jungfrauen?
Wohl auf, der Bräutigam kommt;
Steht auf, die Lampen nehmt! Halleluja!
Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit.
Ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!'*

*'Wake, O wake!' With tidings thrilling
The watchmen's cry the air is filling:
'Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying:
The hour has come!' we hear them saying;
'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The bridegroom now is nigh:
Stand forth! your lamps raise! Hallelujah!
In bright array this nuptial day
Go forth and meet him in the way!'*

1st Lesson Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Christ is the Truth

Traditional English melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), words by E. M. Leather and Ralph Vaughan Williams

1. Christ is the Truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love:
therefore don't turn him from your door,
but hear him all, both rich and poor.

2. Though God had given us all things
good,
yet sin we did and sin we would;
Though we were heirs to death and hell,
God sent his Son with us to dwell.

3. For at this season of the year
our blessed Redeemer did appear;
he came to serve and came to teach,
and many thousands heard him preach.

4. Thus he in love to us behaved,
and showed us how we must be saved;
to free us from our mortal pain,
he lived and died and rose again.

2nd Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

In Dulci Jubilo

Traditional German melody, arr. R. L. Pearsall, adapt. Reginald Jacques

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

Let us our homage shew;
Our heart's joy reclineth,
In praesepio (in a manger)
And like a bright star shineth,
Matris in gremio. (in his mother's lap)
Alpha es et O! (You are the Alpha and
Omega)

2. *O Jesu parvule* (O tiny Jesus)
I yearn for thee always!
Hear me, I beseech thee,
O Puer optime! (O child most excellent)
My prayer let it reach thee,
O Princeps gloriae! (O Prince of Glory)
Trahe me post te! (lead me follow you)

3rd Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

O Babe Divine

C. E. Pettman (1866-1943), traditional English words

1. O Babe divine, to you we sing
a Christmas song of lovelonging;
now make our hearts a fervent spring
to love you more than everything.

2. O holy Child, O sight supreme,
our present song, our future theme:
as you were born in Bethlehem,
be born in us and be our dream.

3. O Prince of peace, our dark world's light,

the dawn of day, the end of night:
now give us strength to win the fight
to conquer sin and live aright.

4. O Saviour Jesus, grant us too
the proof of grace, the heavenly view;
come, fill our hearts with love anew
that we may rise to live with you.

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem

Traditional English melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, descant by Thomas Armstrong, words by Bishop Phillips Brooks

- All:**
- 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 giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
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.**

4th Lesson **Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9**

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905-87), words from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

2. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

3. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

4. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

5. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

'Nativity' from *Songs of the Dawn*, sung by Greta Claringbould

Alan Tregaskis (1918-93), words by James McAuley

The thin distraction of a spider's web
Collects the clear cold drops of night.
Seeds falling on the water spread
A rippling target for the light.

The rumour in the ear now murmurs less,
The snail draws in its tender horn,
The heart becomes a bare attentiveness,
And in that bareness light is born.

5th Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38

Gabriel the Angel Came (Angelus ad Virginem)

14th-Century English melody, arr. John Barnard, word trans. from Latin by Michael Perry (1942-96)

1. Gabriel the angel came to greet the virgin Mary:
'Peace' he said, and called her name, 'for joyful news I carry.
The Lord of all from realms above has looked upon your soul in love;
you shall give birth to Christ on earth, the Saviour; you bear the hope of grace-
the mark of heaven's favour, and all shall see God's face.'

2. Mary asked 'How can it be: my love is given to no-one,
Joseph is betrothed to me- can what is done be undone?'
'The Spirit comes and this is how God's power will be upon you now.
Don't be afraid, what God has said will cheer you- the promise is not vain-
all people shall revere you, and virtue shall remain.'

3. Mary then with joy replied, 'I serve the Lord of heaven.
God shall be my hope and guide to him my heart is give
who lowly stoops to fill my cup and raise his humble servant up.
God's will this day I shall obey rejoicing: then let the nations sing,
such love and mercy voicing, and praise their Lord and King!'

6th Lesson Luke 2:1,3-7

Born on Earth the Divine Christ Child

Traditional French melody, arr. John Rutter, words trans. by Jacqueline Froom

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

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

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

3. In a stable here on earth,
Jesus, in the manger lying,
O how lowly our Saviour's birth!

4. Jesus, Saviour, heaven's Lord,
Tiny child in the manger crying,
Christ our King for evermore.

O Holy Night, sung by Colin Milner

Adolphe Adam, arr. Randa Kirschbaum and musicnotes.com, words by Placide Cappeau

1. O, holy night! The stars are brightly
shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the Soul felt its
worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For younger breaks a new and glorious
morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel
voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was
born!

2. Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains He shall break, for the slave is our
brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus
raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy
name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise
we,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

7th Lesson Luke 2:8-16

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Traditional French melody, arr. John Barnard, words by J. Montgomery (1771-1854)

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight through all the earth;
heralds from creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth!
Come and worship Christ the newborn king.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching by your flocks at night,
God with man is now residing; see, there shines the infant light!
Come and worship...

3. Wise men, leave your contemplations! Brighter visions shine afar;
seek in him the hope of nations, you have seen his natal star.

Come and worship...

4. Though an infant now we view him, he will share his Father's throne.
Gather all the nations to him, every knee shall then bow down.

Come and worship...

The First Nowell

Traditional English melody, arr. John Stainer (1840-1901), descant by David Iliff, 17th-
Century English words

**All: 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.*

**2. They looked 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...

**3. This star drew night to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

Nowell...

**4. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.**

Nowell...

8th Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

As With Gladness

W. H. Monk (1823-89) and S. Nicholson (1875-1947), words by W. C. Dix (1837-98)

1. 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.

2. As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed
there to bow the knee before thee whom heaven and earth adore:
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle plain 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.

4. Holy Jesus, 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.

5. 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 alleluias to our King.

9th Lesson John 1:1-14

O Come All Ye Faithful

Unknown composer, arr. David Willcocks, words trans. by F. Oakeley and W. T. Brooke

**All: 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:
*O come let us adore him...***

**3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
*O come let us adore him...***

**4. Lo! star-led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations:
*O come let us adore him...***

**5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
*O come let us adore him...***

Collect

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 see 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

Blessing

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill
you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing, Mary became the Godbearer, give you
grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), organ and descant by David Willcocks, words by C.
Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan and others

**All: 1. Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Hark! the herald...

**3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n 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...

Postlude