

THE BENEFICE OF WEST MALLING & OFFHAM
CAROL SERVICE 2020

Carol

Joy to the world!
The Lord has 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!

Joy to the earth!
The Saviour reigns;
your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders, the wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts.

Reading

Luke 1.26-35
read by Anne Betts

Choir

Ding Dong Merrily on High

*Trad French,
arr. Richard King*

Reading

Luke 2.1-7
read by Pete Lloyd-Williams

Carol

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 Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), 1868

Reading

Luke 2.8-16
read by Sally Biggs

Choir

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke

Prayers

led by Rev David Green

Carol

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Refrain

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

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, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man 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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Refrain

*Words: Charles Wesley
(1707-1788), 1739;*

Reading

Matthew 2.1-12
read by Stephen Betts

Choir

Go, tell it on the mountain!

*Trad spiritual,
arr. Daryl Runswick*

Reading

John 1.1-14
read by Stewart Biggs

Carol

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.

Refrain:

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.

Refrain

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

Refrain

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

*Latin, 18th Cent.
tr. F.Oakeley (1802-1880)*

Blessing and Dismissal

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