

St Swithun's Church Nately Scures



**A Service of
Nine Readings and Carols**

CAROL

(first verse solo, remaining verses congregation)

Solo

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.

All

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.

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.

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.

BIDDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this Carol Service our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Church, dedicated to St. Swithun, 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 and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for ever more are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father, which 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 (the prophet foretells the birth of Jesus)

CAROL

All

O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Men

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Women

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

All

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times did'st give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

SECOND READING

Micah 5 (the prophet Micah foretells the Glory of Bethlehem)
Poem: Long, Long Ago (Anon)

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

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

THIRD READING

Luke 1: 26-38 (the Angel Gabriel visits Mary)

CAROL

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, good will 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 blessèd 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.

FOURTH READING

Luke 2: 1-7 (St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus)

CAROL

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

FIFTH READING

Luke 2: 8-20 (the shepherds go to the manger)

What the Donkey Saw (U A Fairthorpe)

CAROL

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song.

‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace,
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2 (the Wise Men are led to the star)

CAROL

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Men

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

All: *O star of wonder...*

All

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high.

O star of wonder...

Women

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

All: *O star of wonder...*

All

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to heaven replies.

O star of wonder...

SEVENTH READING

The Wise Men's Tale (Brenda G Macrow)

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

*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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

EIGHTH READING

The Night Before Christmas (Clement Moore)

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

NINTH READING

John 1: 1-14 (St John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation)

CAROL

*A collection will be taken during the singing of this carol
in part to The Bethlehem Society*

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.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come...

THE BLESSING

*Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy
a glass of mulled wine and mince pies after the service*

Glory to God in the Highest

And on earth

Peace, Goodwill to All People



St Swithun's Church Nately Scures

www.stswithunnatelyscures.org.uk



The United Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell

**Journeying together,
we worship God and serve the community**

Our Mission is to:

- ✚ work together to grow God's kingdom**
- ✚ reach out to the whole community to share His love**
- ✚ be inclusive, relevant and Christlike**