

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET



NINE LESSONS & CAROLS FOR  
**CHRISTMAS**

WITH BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

6pm



**ORGAN PRELUDE LES BERGERS**

From *La Nativité du Seigneur*  
Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

§ *Candles are lit. All stand at the bell.*

**FIRST CAROL DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

Melody from *Piae Cantiones*  
*Theodorici Petri Nylandensis* 1582

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.

§ *All sing.*

**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.**

**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.**

Prudentius, 348-413

*Tr* R.F. Davis, 1866-1937

## THE BIDDING

**B**eloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and 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.

Therefore 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 glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one church he did build; for brotherhood and goodwill amongst all men, and especially within this city of London and our parish of All Saints', Margaret Street.

And particularly at this time let us remember before him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those 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 the Lord Jesus we are for ever 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who 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.**

§ *All sit.*

## FIRST LESSON GENESIS 3.8-14

**T**hey heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.

## SECOND CAROL ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

Matthew Martin, b.1976

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 clerkes finden written  
In their book.

Ne had the apple taken been  
The apple taken been;  
Ne had never our lady  
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen  
Deo gratias!

English, 15<sup>th</sup> century

## SECOND LESSON GENESIS 22.15-18

**T**he angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,  
And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast  
done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in  
blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of  
the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess  
the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;  
because thou hast obeyed my voice.

§ *All stand to sing.*

## THIRD CAROL CRANHAM

Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

IN THE bleak midwinter 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful 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 thronged 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.

Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

§ *All sit.*

### THIRD LESSON ISAIAH 9.2; 6-7

**T**he people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

### FOURTH CAROL PUER NATUS EST

William Byrd, 1540-1623

Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis: cuius imperium super humerum eius: et vocabitur nomen eius magni consilii Angelus.

Cantate Domino canticum novum quia mirabilia fecit.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, in secula seculorum. Amen.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called angel of great counsel.*

*Sing unto the Lord a new song for he hath done marvellous things.*

*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.*

Isaiah 9.6; Psalm 98

### FOURTH LESSON ISAIAH 11.1-9

**A**nd there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

§ *All stand to sing.*

**FIFTH CAROL FOREST GREEN**

English Traditional Melody

**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 to-night.**

**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.

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

§ *All sit.*

**FIFTH LESSON ST LUKE 1.26-38**

**A**nd in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

## SIXTH CAROL LO! THAT IS A MARVELOUS CHANGE

Philip Moore, b.1943

Lo! that is a marvelous change in the life of men. Since the mild creator of all mankind from the virgin received flesh undefiled. Never had she known the love of man, nor came the Saviour by any seed of seed on earth. That was greater marvel than men may know in its mystery. How the splendour of heaven, high Lord of the skies, gave help to man through his mother's womb.

From the late 10<sup>th</sup> century *Exeter Book*

Translated from the Anglo-Saxon by Charles W. Kennedy, 1882-1969

### SIXTH LESSON ST MATTHEW 1.18-23

**N**ow the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

§ *All stand to sing.*

### SEVENTH CAROL NOEL

Arthur Sullivan, 1842-1900

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 heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er it Babel sounds  
The blessèd 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.

Edmund Sears, 1810-1876

§ *All sit.*

#### SEVENTH LESSON ST LUKE 2.8-16

**A**nd there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

## **EIGHTH CAROL QUEM VIDISTIS PASTORES**

Francis Poulenc, 1899-1963

Quem vidistis pastores dicite: annuntiate pro nobis in terris quis apparuit. Natum vidimus, et choros Angelorum collaudantes Dominum. Dicite quidnam vidistis, et annuntiate Christi nativitatem.

*Whom did you see, shepherds? tell us: tell us who has appeared on earth. We saw the newborn child, and choirs of Angels praising the Lord. Tell of what you saw, and announce Christ's nativity.*

## **EIGHTH LESSON ST MATTHEW 2.1-11**

**N**ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and 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.

§ *All stand to sing. At the bell all extinguish candles & kneel before the Blessed Sacrament.*

**NINTH CAROL ADESTE FIDELES**

J.F. Wade, 1711-1786

**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...***

**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...***

**Lo! star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child bring our heart's oblations: *O come...***

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *O come...***

**Godhead and Manhood, Sacrament most holy!  
Here is our Beth'lem - angels laud thee here.  
Altar and Manger, one eternal moment. *O come...***

**Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the Highest:**

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> century

Tr Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

First Vicar of All Saints', Margaret Street

## NINTH LESSON ST JOHN 1.1-14

**I**n 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.

§ *Silence is kept.*

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: **Have mercy on us.** [*Three times*]

§ *Kneeling, all sing the Tantum Ergo.*

**TANTUM ERGO IRBY**  
H.J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

**Therefore we, before him bending,  
This great Sacrament revere;  
Types and shadows have their ending,  
For the newer rite is here;  
Faith, our outward sense befriending,  
Makes the inward vision clear.  
  
Glory let us give, and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
Honour, might, and praise addressing,  
While eternal ages run;  
Ever too his love confessing,  
Who from both with both is One. Amen.**

St Thomas Aquinas, c.1225-1274

Thou gavest them bread from heaven. **Containing within itself all sweetness.**

*Let us pray.*

O GOD, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

§ *The priest makes the sign of the cross over the people with the monstrance, which contains the Blessed Sacrament.*

*Let us pray.*

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the Incarnation of thine only Son Jesus Christ, through whom was gathered into one things of earth and of heaven: grant that as we joyfully behold him now, revealed in Word and in Sacrament as our Redeemer, so we may with confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Let us adore, for ever, the most holy Sacrament.*

*O praise the Lord, all ye heathen:* **praise him, all ye nations.**  
**For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us:**  
**and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.**

*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.**

§ *All stand when the bell rings.*

**Let us adore, for ever, the most holy Sacrament.**

§ *All sit as the choir leaves the sanctuary.*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY TOCCATA-GIGUE ON THE SUSSEX CAROL**  
George Baker, b. 1951

*Welcome to All Saints'. Please join us for mulled wine in the courtyard.*

*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

6.30pm First High Mass of Christmas

*with Blessing of the Crib*

M. Haydn | Walford Davies | Mulet

11pm Midnight Mass

Mozart | Rutter | Bach

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December*

**CHRISTMAS MORNING**

8.30am Low Mass

11am High Mass

Haydn | Sweelinck | Widor

*Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

11am High Mass

6pm Epiphany Carol Service

Lassus | Leighton | Meador | Bull | Sumsion



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,  
or using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*