

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

# NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 7:30PM

A traditional Christmas service of readings and music led by the superb choir of Saint John's Finch Street



[WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU)

*Before the service the organist plays a short recital of seasonal music including 'Noel (Recit de Flute)' by Jean Jacques Charpentier, 'Noel Angevin' by Cesar Franck, 'Offertoire sur un Noel' by Charles Alexis Chauvet, and 'Christmas Night' by Vinc Goller*

*Please stand when the bells are rung.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Sung by the Choir alone*

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.

*The Congregation join in singing, as their candles are lit*

**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. And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above:  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**5. 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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

*H. Gauntlett*

*vv. 1-4 harmonised A.H. Mann, v. 5 arranged D. Willcocks*

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

*The Congregation remain standing*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be 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.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill over all the earth, within the dominions of our sovereign lord King Charles, within this Commonwealth and nation; and for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our Diocese of Melbourne.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and 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 none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that he hath made.

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.**

## COLLECT

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN

1. 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.*

*Sung by lower voices only*

2. 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.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Sung by higher voices only*

3. 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.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Sung by lower voices only*

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide out heav'nly home;

make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Sung by all*

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

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Based on ancient Advent Antiphons  
Translated J.M. Neale and others*

*The Congregation are seated as they also extinguish their candles*

## FIRST LESSON

The First Lesson from the Book of Genesis

[3.1-7, 22-24]

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Then the Lord God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever'— therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

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 clerkès finden  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady,  
A been Heavenè Queen.

Blessèd be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen  
*Deo Gracias!*

*'Adam Lay Ybounden' by Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

## SECOND LESSON

The Second Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah

[49.1-6]

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'  
And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
*Alleluia.*

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
*Res miranda.*

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in Persons Three,  
*Pares forma.*

Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyful birth;  
*Transeamus.*

*'There is No Rose' by John Joubert (1927-2019)*

### **THIRD LESSON**

The Third Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah

[52.1a, 3-6, 13-15]

Awake, awake,  
put on your strength, O Zion!  
Put on your beautiful garments,  
O Jerusalem, the holy city:

For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—



so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
"Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

*'Bethlehem Down' by Bruce Blunt, set to music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930)*

## HYMN

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

4. Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

5. Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*French traditional melody arranged by David Willcocks.  
J. Montgomery (1771-1854)*

## FOURTH LESSON

The Fourth Lesson from the Prophet Micah

[5:2-5a]

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly!  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be ...

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be ...

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,  
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be ...

*'Sans Day Carol' trad. Cornish arranged by John Rutter (b. 1945)*

## FIFTH LESSON

The Fifth Lesson from the Gospel of Luke

[1:26-35, 38]

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

### CAROL

Riu riu chiu,  
la guarda ribera; Dios  
guardo el lobo de nuestra cordera.

*Riu, riu, chiu,  
the river bank protects it, as God kept  
the wolf from our lamb*

El lobo rabioso la quiso morder,  
Mas Dios poderoso la supo defender;  
Quisola hazer que no pudiese pecar,  
Ni aun original esta Virgen no  
tuviera. Riu riu chiu...

*The rabid wolf tried to bite her  
but God Almighty knew how to defend  
her. He wished to create her impervious  
to sin. Nor was this maid to embody  
original sin*

Este qu'es nacido es el gran monarca,  
Christo patriarca, de carne vestido;  
hanos redimido con se hacer chiquito,  
a un qu'era infinito, finito se hiziera.  
Riu riu chiu...

*He who is begotten is our mighty King.  
Christ, of the Holy Father, in human  
flesh embodied. He made himself small  
and so redeemed us:  
He who was infinite became finite.*

Muchas profecias lo han profetizado,  
Ya un nuestros dias lo hemos al  
consado. Adios humanado vemos en  
el suelo, Yal hombre nelcielo porquel  
le quistera. Riu riu chiu...

Yo vi mil garzones  
que andaban cantando,  
por aquí volando, haciendo mil sonos,  
diciendo a gascones: "Gloria sea en el  
Cielo y paz en el suelo", pues de sus  
nasciera. Riu riu chiu...

Este viene a dar a los muertos vida  
y viene a reparar de todos la caída;  
es la luz del día a queste mozuelo;  
este es el cordero que San Juan  
dixera. Riu riu chiu...

Mira bien queos quadre  
que ansina lo oyera,  
Que Dios no pudiera  
hacer la mas que madre,  
El quera su padre hoy della nascio  
Y el que la drio su hijo so dixera.  
Riu riu chiu...

Pues que ya tenemos  
lo que deseamos,  
todos juntos vamos,  
presentes llevemos;  
todos le daremos muestra voluntad,  
pues a se igualar con el hombre  
viniera. Riu riu chiu...

*Many prophecies told of his coming,  
and now in our days have we seen them  
fulfilled. God became man, on earth we  
behold him, and see man in heaven  
because he so willed.*

*A thousand singing angels  
I saw passing, flying overhead,  
sounding a thousand voices,  
exulting, "Glory be in the heavens,  
and peace on Earth,  
for Jesus has been born."*

*He comes to give life to the dead,  
He comes to redeem the fall of man;  
This child is the light of day,  
He is the very lamb Saint John  
prophesied.*

*Mark well the rightness  
of what you have heard  
That God could not make her  
more a mother: he that is her maker is  
today of her born; he of whom she is the  
child is called her son.*

*Now we have gotten  
what we were all desiring,  
Go we together to bear him gifts:  
Let each give his will  
to the God who was willing to come  
down to Earth man's equal to be.  
Riu, riu chiu...*

*'Riu, riu chiu' by Mateo Flecha the Elder (1481-1553)*

## SIXTH LESSON

The Sixth Lesson from the Gospel of Matthew

[1:18-25]

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.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

### CAROL

"Nowell nowell, nowell nowell."

"Who is there that singeth so: nowell nowell?"

"I am here, Sir Christémas."

"Welcome, my Lord Sir Christémas!"

Welcome to all, both more and less!

Come near, nowell!"

"Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:

A maid hath born a child full young,

Which causeth you to sing

Nowell nowell, nowell nowell.

"Christ is now born of a pure maid,  
In an ox-stall he is laid;  
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:  
Nowell nowell, nowell nowell.

"Buvez bien par toute la compagnie.  
Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully:  
Nowell nowell, nowell nowell!"

*'Sir Christémas' by William Mathias (1934-1992)*

## HYMN

**1. 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.**

**2. 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 night.**

**3. 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.**

*Melody by W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)  
arranged by David Willcocks*

## SEVENTH LESSON

The Seventh Lesson from the Gospel of Luke

[2:8-20]

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.

### CAROL

The kings they come from out the south,  
All dressed in ermine fine;  
They bore Him gold and chrysoprase,  
And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,  
Their coats were brown and old;



They brought Him little new-born lambs—  
They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,  
And they were wrapped in white;  
The star that led them all the way  
Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,  
And they were clad with wings;  
And lo, they brought a joyful song  
The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,  
The wise men entered in,  
The shepherds followed after them  
To hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night  
Until the rising sun,  
But little Jesus fell asleep  
Before the song was done.

*'A Christmas Carol' by Joshua Adams (b.1997)*

## **EIGHTH LESSON**

The Eighth Lesson from the Gospel of Matthew

[2:1-12]

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 having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold,  
Gold that was never bought nor sold;  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
Incense in clouds about his head;  
All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep.  
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;  
See how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword  
(Defend with it Thy little Lord!),  
For incense, smoke of battle red.  
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;  
Gifts for his children terrible and sweet,

Touched by such tiny hands and  
Oh such tiny feet.

*'Here is the Little Door' by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

## **NINTH LESSON**

The Ninth Lesson from the Gospel of John

[1:1-14]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

## **CAROL**

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance  
Thus was I knit to man's nature  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love*

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love*

*'Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day' by John Gardener (1917-2011)*

*During the Hymn a Collection is taken for the ministry and work of the Church*

## HYMN

**1 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*English traditional carol arranged by David Willcocks.*

*The Vicar pronounces this blessing*

## BLESSING

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

## CLOSING HYMN

1. 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!”*

2. 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 with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”*

3. Hail the heavenly 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.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”*

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), verse 3 arranged by David Willcocks  
Words Charles Wesley*

*The organist plays the Postlude, ‘Fantasia on Adeste Fideles’ by Geoffrey Shaw.*

**Welcome to Saint John’s Finch Street.  
Please join us for a festive supper after this service.**

**Join us again for Christmas.**

**Christmas Eve: 5pm Children’s Crib Service and 11pm Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day: 8am Said Eucharist and 9:30am Choral Eucharist.**

**All are welcome!**

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

# CHRISTMAS

Sunday 8th December 7:30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

*Christmas Eve* 5pm Children's Crib Service  
Tuesday 24th December 11pm Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day* 8am Eucharist  
Wednesday 25th December 9:30am Choral Eucharist

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