



 **St. Mary's Church**
SAWSTON

CRIB SERVICE 5pm 24 DECEMBER 2021



Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Opening Prayer

Carol

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 stood 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 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.

Reading “Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem”

At that time the Emperor Caesar Augustus sent out an order that all the people in the Roman Empire had to be counted. Everyone had to travel to the place their family originally came from for the counting. So, Joseph left Nazareth and travelled to Bethlehem, David’s city, because he was a descendent of King David. Joseph was engaged to Mary, so she went with him. She was expecting a baby, and the baby was soon to be born.

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

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 79

Reading: “Jesus is born”

When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. There was no room in the inn, so she gave birth to her first-born son in a stable, and wrapped him up carefully, and laid him in a manger.

Carol

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 nigh.
- 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.

Author Unknown *Little children's book*, Philadelphia, 1885 Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 60

Reading: “The Shepherds come to see Jesus”

There were shepherds on the hills nearby, guarding their sheep at night. Suddenly an angel from God appeared to them and God’s glory shone all around them. They were terrified, but the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid. I have come to announce a great and joyful event which is meant for everyone. A Saviour has been born in Bethlehem. He is Lord of all, but you will find him in a manger.’

A great crowd of angels appeared, singing ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth’.

‘Let’s go and see for ourselves what God has told us’, said the shepherds to each other’. So they ran eagerly to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby in a manger. They told everyone the things the angel had said, and all the people they told were amazed.

Carol

While shepherds watch’d 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.

Nahum Tate (1652–1715) based on Luke 2.1-20 Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 89 .

Reading “The Wise Men travel to see Jesus”

After Jesus was born, some wise men from Eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, 'Where is the new-born King of the Jews? We have seen a star in the eastern sky which signalled his birth, and we have come to worship him.'

When King Herod heard about this he was very worried at the idea of another king. He asked his advisors, 'Where do the prophets say God's chosen one will be born?' 'In Bethlehem', they answered. So Herod said to the wise men, 'Go and find this child, and then make sure you tell me where he is – I'd like to worship him too!' (but he was lying). As the wise men set off, the star appeared again and led them to where Jesus was. They knelt and worshipped him, and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they did not tell King Herod where Jesus was, and went back to their own land a different way.

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.

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)* Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 105

Blessing of the Crib

Carol

1 Silent night, holy night,
 All is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child;
 holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Joseph Mohr (1792–1848) translated by John Freeman Young (1820–1885) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 84.

Reflection

Prayers

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor
Give your wisdom to the rulers of nations.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Mighty God
Make the world know that the government is on your shoulders
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Everlasting Father
Establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Prince of Peace
Bring in the endless kingdom of your peace
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Almighty Lord
Hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplish Your will in our Lord Jesus Christ
Amen

We join in the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Carol

- 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 as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
- 3 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.

Final Blessing

At the heart of Christmas



Christmas Services at St Mary's

Friday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Saturday 25th December 10.30am Holy Communion

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