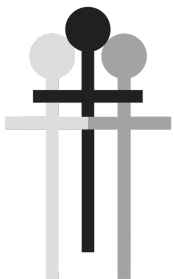


A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



St Mary's Church Denham
Sunday 19th December, 6.30pm

Christmas recalls us to the central truth of the Word made flesh so that we could become children of God.

The service of *Nine Lessons and Carols* retells the story of God with us: how we were created to live in communion with God but, through self-centredness, have destroyed this relationship.

All through history God has sought to restore our relationship with him; the birth of Jesus announces God's decisive rescue plan. Jesus was fully human, yet fully God. He lived a truly human life and through his death and resurrection he has overcome the power of sin, darkness and even death.

He invites us to come home to God as our Heavenly Father and to receive new life, which even death cannot destroy. God's Holy Spirit makes this resurrection life available to us today when we bow down as the shepherds and wise men did and worship Christ as Lord.

This is the Good News - or *Gospel* - which we celebrate at Christmas. Over the last two years we have experienced separation from those we love like never before. May we experience a renewed joy as we worship the God who has come to be with us so we can be with him.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first drawn up by Edward Benson, when Bishop of Truro. It was simplified and adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, in 1918 by the Dean, Eric Milner-White, who wrote the Bidding Prayer, which we still use today.

We would love to give you two small gifts as you leave today:

- The Christmas issue of *Denham Parish News*
- "*Why Christmas?*", a booklet which explores the 'reason for the season' and why the person of Jesus Christ has had such a transforming effect on world history and the lives of countless people. It has been written by Nicky Gumbel, who is also the author of *Alpha*. *Alpha* will start in Denham in February. It explores the big questions we all have and is an excellent introduction to the Christian faith. Why not give it a go in 2022? Find out more at www.denhamparish.church/alpha

At the end of this service you are invited to contribute to *our Christmas Appeal* as you leave. Details can be found on the back cover of this booklet and on the blue notice board near the door.



The shepherds 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. Luke 2:16–19

*Please stand for the congregational carols and sit for the choir carols and readings. Please join in with words in **bold**.*

INTRODUCTION

Christoph Lindner

CAROL

A soloist and the choir sing the opening verses

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.

Please stand as we sing the remaining verses together

3

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

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 heaven 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;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Remain standing

THE BIDDING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Beloved in Christ ...

... we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the
throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has
taught us:

**All 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.**

CHOIR

Rejoice with heart and voice! Gaudete! (*Trad. 1582, M Perry*)

Rejoice with heart and voice!

Now is our Saviour of the virgin Mary born so rejoice!

*At this time our God fulfills all our expectation:
let us offer hearts and wills in rededication.*

*God of God when time began, Lord of all creation:
we revere the Son of Man at his incarnation.*

*Alleluia! Let us sing hymns of adoration,
blessing Christ our worthy king in this celebration!*

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3.8-15

Read by Lindy Piper

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

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 ONLY)

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

(LADIES ONLY)

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

(ALL)

**O come, thou key of David come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

(ALL)

**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.**

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22.15-18

Read by Philip Stephens

God promises to Abraham that through his faithfulness
all nations shall be blessed.

CAROL

**Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.**

**Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken -
hearts awaken: God is near!**

**John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'**

**Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray;
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.**

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9.2,6-7

Read by Lavinia Stone

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
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!

FOURTH LESSON: Zephaniah 3.14-18

Read by Andrew Simpson

The prophet Zephaniah announces
the coming of the Lord to his people.

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 all
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the 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 warring humankind hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise of mortal strife and hear the angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road 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 all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1.26-38

Read by Charlie McClelland

The Angel Gabriel announces
the Messiah's birth to the Virgin Mary.

CHOIR

Gabriel's Message (*Basque carol, Sabine Baring-Gould*)

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2.1-7

Read by Kathleen Anderson

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus Christ.

CHOIR

The Little Drummer Boy (*K Davis, H Onorati, H Simeone, arr. R Cottle*)

CAROL

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore. Amen.'

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2.8-19

Read by Samantha Carter

The shepherds go to the manger.

CHOIR

Christmas is Coming (*J Raney*)

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2.1-11

Read by John Way

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CHOIR

To Thee My Heart I Offer (*Anonymous 1653, E Hagenberg*)

CAROL

1
Joy has dawned upon the world,
promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

2
Sounds of wonder fill the sky
with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life
shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast,
vulnerable and helpless.

3
Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands
prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
incense, God is with us,
myrrh, His death will make a way,
and by His blood He'll win us.

4
Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour, what a Friend,
what a glorious mystery:
once a babe in Bethlehem,
now the Lord of history.

NINTH LESSON: John 1.1-14

Please stand.

Read by Nnamdi Maduka

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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:**

*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, let us adore him...

**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...

CONCLUSION

Christoph Lindner

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Ian Jennings

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

All Amen.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All 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, th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

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



Christmas Treasure Hunt for Children

It's not too late to join us for our Christmas Treasure Hunt in Denham Village! Everyone aged 12 or younger can have a go and win a prize. (If you are older than 12 you can of course still have a go and older children and adults can help!)

Find all the baubles in Denham Village (there is a larger map in colour in the current edition of *Denham Parish News*). Write down the letter from each of the eight baubles and work out which word it spells. (Hint: It is a special word we find in the Bible stories about Christmas).

Email your answers to office@denhamparish.church and tell us your name and age.

We will draw prizes on:

- 24 December (Christmas Eve) 4pm at the Crib Service
- 25 December (Christmas Day) 10.30am at our Family Service

You can also submit your answers online at www.denhamparish.church/christmasmap



What do you think?

#AskAtAlpha

Explore life • faith • meaning in Denham this year

Starts in January. Find out more:
www.denhamparish.church/alpha



Denham Church Christmas Appeal



There will be a retiring collection which will be divided equally between
Trinity/SHOC and **GIVE & SHARE**.

More information can be found on our notice board at the back of church.



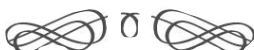
Trinity and SHOC

Trinity provides housing for homeless people in and around Uxbridge and helps homeless people in Slough through its partner SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern)



GIVE & SHARE

Give & Share has grown out of the Christmas Box initiative and gives hope to people in and around Denham by sharing God's love in practical ways. Last year we delivered 192 boxes of food and toys. Your donation will help us to help others all year round.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Crib Service. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>For all ages. Bring a new toy as a gift for another child!</i>
	11.00 pm	Midnight Holy Communion. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Holy Communion. ST MARY'S
	10.30 am	Family Service. ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE <i>A short service for all ages, celebrating Jesus' birth</i>
Sun 26 th Dec	9.00 am	NO SERVICE. Please join us at 10.30am
	10.30 am	Family Service with Holy Communion ST MARY'S & YOUTUBE

Find all our online services at www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch

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