

St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst



The Nativity by Gerard David (1460–1523)

Christmas Carol Service 2022

Before the Service, there will be a performance of music for handbells played by St Michael's Belles.

| Sunday 18th December: | Christmas Eve, 24th December |
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| <p data-bbox="90 421 221 453"><u><i>4-in-hand</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="90 475 519 555">Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</p> <p data-bbox="90 619 266 651"><u><i>12 bell music</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="90 673 519 1082">Silent Night Away In A Manger Mary's Boy Child O Come All Ye Faithful The Huron Carol O Little Town Of Bethlehem Unto Us Is Born A Son Jingle Bells We Wish You A Merry Christmas</p> | <p data-bbox="572 421 703 453"><u><i>4-in-hand</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="572 475 1002 555">Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</p> <p data-bbox="572 619 748 651"><u><i>12 bell music</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="572 673 863 1152">A Joyful Ring Winter Walking In The Air O Leave Your Sheep O Holy Night White Christmas Merrily To Bethlehem</p> |

About tonight's Carol Service

Thank you for sharing in our celebration of Christmas. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, we hope that tonight's carol service will help you to find some "comfort and joy", whatever Christmas may look like for you this year. The notes below are intended to help you follow the theme of the service.

Notes on tonight's carols and readings

The structure of the service is based on five readings from the Bible, interspersed with carols. The overall message is of hope for new life, peace and restoration for a broken world.

Readings: In the first reading, Adam and Eve's disobedience to God leads to their being banished from the Garden of Eden and the tree of life, a story that expresses the universal truth that human beings have strayed from God's ways. But there is hope of redemption, as Micah prophesies about the birth of the Messiah (2nd reading). Centuries later, God's plan begins to take shape through the obedience of Mary and Joseph (3rd reading), and Luke tells of the birth of Jesus and the visit of shepherds (4th reading). In the 5th reading, Matthew's account of the visit of the Magi shows how God's plan of salvation is for the whole world, not just the Jewish nation to which Jesus belonged.

Choir items: James MacMillan's *O Radiant Dawn* is a setting of an Advent antiphon which calls on Christ to shine his light on all whose lives are filled with darkness. *There is no rose of such virtue* is a modern setting of medieval words portraying Mary as a rose that contains the incarnate God. John Rutter's *Candlelight Carol* portrays the mystery and wonder of the story of Jesus' birth, while Dick Averre's *Christmas Hymn* tells the story from a shepherd's point of view. The journey of the Wise Men (aka "kings" is the subject of Peter Gritton's jazzy *Follow that star!* and the final choir item is the popular *O Holy Night!* by Adolphe Adam, setting to music J.S. Dwight's hymn of worship to the new-born King.

As you listen, may the Christmas message fill you with wonder, joy and hope!

Rev. John Castle, Rector

Processional Hymn

The first verse will be sung by the choir alone.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Welcome and opening prayers

Please remain standing

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.

1st Lesson:

Genesis 3:8–15 God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Choir: O Radiant Dawn

Words: liturgical Advent antiphon; music: James MacMillan (b. 1959);

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice,
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone”.

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice,

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.



The Annunciation by Fra Angelico (1387–1455)

Hymn

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.*

They lookèd 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.

Nowell, Nowell, ...

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.

Nowell, Nowell, ...

All

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of
nought,
and with his blood mankind hath
bought.

Nowell, Nowell, ...

2nd Lesson:

Micah 5:2-5a The prophet Micah foretells the coming of a ruler from
Bethlehem

Choir: There is no rose of such virtue

Words: medieval; music: M Sakakini

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 [a wonderful thing].

By that rose we may well see
that he is God in Persons Three.
Pares forma [equal in substance].

The angels sungen the shepherds to
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus [let us rejoice].

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyous birth.
Transeamus [let us cross over].

Hymn

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter,
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 mid-winter
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.

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.

3rd Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-25 An angel appears to Joseph

Choir: Candlelight Carol

Words and music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How do you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Candlelight, angel light etc.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Hymn

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:

*Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of Nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Ev'ry knee shall then bow down:

4th Lesson:

Luke 2:1–20 St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Choir: Christmas Hymn

Words trans. By Dr T. Baker; Music: 17th Century, arr. Dick Averre

While by my sheep I watch'd at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright:

*How great my joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.*

There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall he lie in manger mean,
Who shall redeem the world from sin:

Lord, evermore to me be nigh,
Then shall my heart be filled with joy!

*How great my joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.*



The Adoration of the Shepherds by G. van Honthorst (1590–1656)

Hymn

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 lonely plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed 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.

5th Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-12 The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Choir: Follow that star!

Words and music: Peter Gritton © 1989 Chester Music Ltd.)

One dark and stormy evening,
Through the wind and rain.
There came a sight worth seeing,
'Cause it wasn't gonna happen again.

They don't know what they do,
They just follow that star.

Three Kings
They'd seen a bright light in the sky.
Without knowing who, what, when,
where, why,
They grabbed their gifts and off they
went,

They had to find the little town,
They had to find the little town,
It was not easy to be found.
They don't know what they do,
They just follow that star.

Choir: O Holy Night

Words: J.S. Dwight; Music: Adolphe Adam, arr. John E. West

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our friend;
he knows our need, he guardeth us from danger.
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

Hymn

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:

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,

draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts'
oblations:

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!*

Short Sermon: Rev. John Castle

Prayers

*The response to "Lord in your mercy" is **hear our prayer.***

Hymn

A collection will be taken during this hymn for the work of this church and the charities we support. Alternatively, as you leave you can use our simple card reader which accepts gifts of £5, £10 or £20, or donate online at www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk/donations. Thank you!

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:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Prayer over the offertory and Blessing

Choir: Recessional

Words and music: medieval, adapted by Benjamin Britten (1913–76)

Hodie Christus natus est,
hodie salvator apparuit.
hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli.
Hodie exultant iusti dicentes,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ...

*Today Christ is born,
today the Saviour has appeared.
today on earth the angels sing.
the archangels rejoice.
Today the righteous exult, saying
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ...*

*'To all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God.'*

John 1:12

May God bless you this Christmas.

For more information about St Michael's or the Christian faith,
please fill in a welcome card (in the pews), or visit our website
www.stmichaels-sandhurst.org.uk. We are also on Facebook
www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSandhurst