

**ST. ANNE'S PARISH CHURCH
INGS**

**CAROLS FOR
CHRISTMAS**



**SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2004
AT 2.30PM.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

(Book 1, p.100)

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.

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.

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.



BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR: Love Came Down at Christmas (Clive Walkley)

(Sheet)

FIRST LESSON

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Book 1, p59)

ALL

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 lowly 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.



SECOND LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

(Sheet)

CHOIR: *Midwinter* (Bob Chilcott)

ALL: 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.

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.

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.



THIRD LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger

CHOIR: *The Shepherds' Farewell* (Hector Berlioz) — P142 (Sheet)

All: 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.

FOURTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

CHOIR: *A Great and Mighty Wonder (Praetorius) — (Book 1, page 1)*

ALL: The first Nowell the angel did say — *Page 126*
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 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:
Chorus

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:
Chorus



This star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Chorus

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Chorus

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:
Chorus

FIFTH LESSON *(Please stand)*

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

ALL: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, *(Book 1, p.88)*
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, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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 let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo! Star led chieftains, magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.