

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

**CAROLS FOR
CHRISTMAS**



**SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER
AT 2.30PM.**

**ST. CUTHBERT'S PARISH CHURCH
KENTMERE**

**CAROLS FOR
CHRISTMAS**



**SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2001
AT 4.30PM.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

SOLO: 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.

(Book 2 p.148)

ALL: 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: *The Blessed Son of God*

(Book 1, p112)

FIRST LESSON

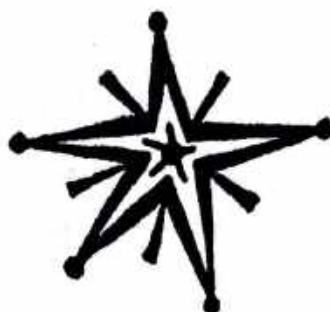
The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

CHOIR: *The Christmas Miracle*

(Sheet)

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.

(Book 1, p59)



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

CHOIR: *Hodie Christus natus est*

(Sheet)

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: *Candlelight Carol*

(Sheet)



ALL: Unto us is born a Son, (Book 1, p154)
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger:
Ox and ass their Owner know
Becradled in the manger,
Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder;
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story:
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory!

O and A and A and O
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

FOURTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

CHOIR: Is the little King sleeping? (sheet)

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,
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.

(Book 1 p.88)

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 holy 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.