



+St Peter & St Paul Langham



Christmas Eve 2017
6:00pm

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Oakham Team Office

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The Team Office is staffed on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am- 1pm, Thursdays 11am-3pm and Fridays by email. **Notices or reports for inclusion in the pew sheet and website should be sent to notices@oakhamteam.org.uk or delivered to the office by Wednesday at 11 am.**



www.oakhamteam.org.uk



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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to our service!

Today we will be retelling the Christmas story.
And there will be a chance for everybody to get involved.

The four advent candles are lit and the crib is blessed

God bless this crib:

**as we look into the face of Jesus,
may we see the splendour of the Divine Father,
and the fruit of a human mother,
a brother to us all.**

God bless this crib:

**as we look into the face of Jesus,
may we see the Prince of Peace,
the joy of angels,
the meaning of a human life.**

The four candles of an Advent wreath are lit as follows.

Jesus, born of Mary (*light first candle*)
light up our darkness.

Jesus, proclaimed by angels (*light second candle*)
light up our darkness.

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds (*light third candle*)
light up our darkness.

Jesus, adored by wise people (*light fourth candle*)
light up our darkness.

Now is the time of the great Nativity.

Proclamation

Prayer

Dear God

We thank you for the chance to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.
As we journey through this story,
we ask that you show us once again;
why this is one of the most important stories we could ever know.

Amen.

Carol

During which the travelling Posada sets are returned.

1. 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!
2. God of God,
 Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 very God,
 begotten, not created:
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
 sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
 glory to God
 in the highest:

*ords: Adeste, fideles, Latin 18th century trans Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Music: Adeste Fideles, John Francis Wade (c1711-1786) harm Compilers of The English Hymnal 1906
(Ancient & Modern – 78)*

The Greatest Journey

*As we retell the Christmas story we will gradually invite the children forward to form our
Nativity Tableaux*

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 to-night.

Words, Phillips Brooks; Music, English traditional arr. Vaughan Williams

Carol

1. See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came!*

4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!

3. Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

Carol

The last line of each verse is sung three times

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Words: based on Luke 2.1-20, Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Music: Cranbrook, Thomas Clark (1775-1859) arr David Peacock (b 1949) (Ancient & Modern– 89)

Closing Prayer

We say together

**Thank you that you sent your son on a journey
from heaven to earth to show your love for us,
so that we could be friends with you.**

Thank you that his message of hope, joy and peace is for all people.

**We pray that you will help people to know
your hope, joy and peace this Christmas,
particularly those in need.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

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.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
(Ancient & Modern – 66)*

Blessing

***Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas from
everyone at Langham Parish Church***

