



All Saints' Church Oakham

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

a Carol Service for the
whole of Oakham

with Laudamus, Oakham Team Choir

followed by wine & mince pies

Thursday 19 December – 7:30pm

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WELCOME to this Carol Service which seeks to bring the whole community together in this season of peace and goodwill

The Bidding Prayer which begins the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was written by the Dean of Kings College, Cambridge in 1918, and it captures the essence of why we sing carols and read the lessons that speak of the birth of Jesus. We meet in this Parish Church that sits in the centre of our Town which itself is at the heart of our County. These are very special places for us – Parish, Town and County – we know them well, we love and cherish them. Yet the prayer asks us to in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem. We are encouraged to leave all the things we know and give us security in order to travel to the very place where the whole history of the world was transformed by the birth of this child.

At the same time the prayer is deeply connected with this community in which we live and which this church seeks to serve. It rejoices the heart of God that we begin by praying for the vulnerable at the heart of our town, thinking particularly of the sick, and disadvantaged. As Churches and voluntary organisations we commit ourselves to caring for those who are often forgotten amidst all the festivities.

I am grateful to Mr Kevin Slingsby, the Director of Music, and the choir for their considerable efforts in drawing this service together. Please stay for refreshments afterwards.

Revd Stephen Griffiths
Vicar of Oakham

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrates the birth of Jesus, and the nine lessons from Genesis, the Prophets and the Gospels tell the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus, while the readings are interspersed with Christmas carols and hymns for choir and congregation. The format of the service is based on an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, then Bishop of Truro, for Christmas Eve 1880. It has since been adapted and used by churches all over the world, but most famously, and in the form now most commonly used, by Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge for the College's first service in 1918.

Once in Royal David's City was written by Cecil Frances Alexander as a hymn for children in 1848, and was set to music by Henry John Gauntlett. The last verse is arranged with descant by David Willcocks.

The poem **Jesus Christ the Apple Tree** was first published in 1761, and the author is unknown. It has been set to music by a number of composers, most famously by Elizabeth Poston, and as well as the reference to the apple tree in Genesis may be an allusion to the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2.3, or the tree of life in Luke 13.18-19.

Unto Us is Born a Son is the English translation by George Ratcliffe Woodward of the medieval Latin carol 'Puer nobis nascitur', first published in the 1582 Finnish song book 'Piae Cantiones'. Tonight's arrangement is by David Willcocks.

Listen to the Message has words by David Iliff, set to his own arrangement of the traditional Moravian tune 'U Betlema'. Formerly Director of Music at The British School of Brussels in Belgium, David is actively involved with church music in Brussels and was formerly Director of Music at a large church in London. He is a director of Jubilate Hymns Ltd, and has been involved in composing and arranging music for many of the worship books produced by the Jubilate team. In 1995 he toured in the States with members of the Jubilate team presenting new musical and liturgical ideas in various centres.

O Little Town of Bethlehem was written by Phillips Brooks after a visit to Bethlehem in 1865. It was set to music by his organist, Lewis Redner, the tune it is usually sung to in the USA. It has also been set to music by a number of other composers, but the traditional hymn tune Forest Green that we use tonight was adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from an English Folk Ballad.

Gaudete ('Rejoice [ye]' in Latin) is a sacred Christmas carol, thought to have been composed in the 16th century. It was published in Piae Cantiones, a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs published in 1581. No music is given for the verses, but the standard tune comes from older liturgical books. The Latin text is a typical medieval song of praise, which follows the standard pattern for the time – a uniform series of four-line stanzas, each preceded by a two-line refrain (in the early English carol this was known as the burden). Carols could be on any subject, but typically they were about the Virgin Mary, the Saints or Yuletide themes. The version we sing tonight uses the Latin refrain, with English words from the Latin by Michael Perry.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen is an English traditional carol dating from the mid 18th century, here arranged by David Willcocks.

O Come and Join the Dance is by the contemporary writer of modern worship songs, Graham Kendrick, tonight sung in an arrangement for SATB by Richard Hubbard, who is Music Development Director at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, where he leads the InHarmony Project to equip and resource music in churches across Suffolk.

While Shepherds Watched was written by England's Poet Laureate, Nahum Tate and appeared in Tate and Brady's 1700 supplement to their Psalms of David. At the time it was the only Christmas hymn authorised to be sung by the Anglican Church, and has been set to many different tunes. It first appeared set to 'Winchester Old', the 'traditional' tune, in 1861.

Wise Men Seeking Jesus is a setting of words written by James T East in 1926, who was a Methodist minister, born in Kettering and serving in many Methodist churches across the country. The music is by Jonathan Willcocks (born 1953), son of the conductor and composer Sir David Willcocks. He was a chorister at King's College Cambridge, and directs the Guildford Choral Society, Chichester Singers and the professional chamber orchestra Southern Pro Musica, and is Festival Conductor of the Leith Hill Musical Festival.

We Three Kings was published in Reverend John Henry Hopkins, Jr's *Carols, Hymns and Songs* in 1863, with both lyrics and music by him, although it featured in an elaborate holiday pageant which he organised for the students of the General Theological Seminary in New York City in 1857 while serving as their music director. Tonight's arrangement by Paul Leddington-Wright (principal conductor for BBC's Songs of Praise) features flamboyant interludes between the verses.

Small Wonder the Star sets words by Paul Wigmore (1925–2014), who combined hymn writing with a varied career including engineering, photography and design, to music by Paul Edwards, who is currently Organist and Choirmaster at All Saints' Church, Turvey, Bedfordshire, following a musical career including time as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, a Lay Clerk at Peterborough Cathedral and numerous church organist posts.

O Come All Ye Faithful is a translation of the original Latin words 'Adeste Fideles' (also the name of the tune), verses 1, 2, 6 & 7 (verse 7 is reserved for Christmas Day) being the earliest, translated by Frederick Oakeley, and verses 3, 4 & 5 being added in the 18th century, translated by William Thomas Brooke. The descant arrangement to verse 6 is by David Willcocks, as is the fanfare introduction, written for brass and arranged for organ by David Houlder.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing was written Charles Wesley and first appeared in 1739. The tune commonly used today is not the original one, but is an arrangement by William H Cummings of music from Felix Mendelssohn's secular cantata 'Festgesang', written to commemorate Gutenberg's invention of the printing press! The last verse arrangement and fanfare introduction are by David Willcocks, arr David Houlder.

Please stand and join in from verse 3

Processional Hymn

Solo:

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.

Choir:

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.

All:

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

*Words: C. F. Alexander; Music: H. J. Gauntlett; harmonised, A. H. Mann
descant, David Willcocks; Oxford University Press*

Please remain standing

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas-tide our care and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels:
in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God
from the first days of our disobedience
unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child;
and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world;
for peace and goodwill over all the earth;
for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless,
the cold, the hungry and the oppressed;
the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn;
the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no man can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom 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 hath taught us:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
his beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and wait awhile:
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and wait awhile:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
this fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words: from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith
Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

First Lesson

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

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Please stand

Hymn

1. Unto us is born a Son,
king of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal,
of lords the Lord eternal.

2. 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.

All:

5. O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino,
benedicamus Domino.

Men:

3. 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.

Ladies:

4. 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!

Words: tr. G R Woodward; Music: from Piaae Cantiones 1582; Arranged, David Willcocks

Please sit

Second Lesson

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol

Listen to the message that the angels bring,
telling frightened shepherds of a newborn King:
'Glory to God in heaven,
peace to the earth is given,
Christ is born, Christ is born.'

Listen to the shepherds as they shout for joy:
'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this boy.
He brings us all salvation –
give him your adoration –
Christ is born! Christ is born!'

In the stable wondering shepherds kneel in awe,
gazing at the holy baby in the straw,
'Is this the one who's given?
Yes, he's the King of heaven!
Christ is born! Christ is born!'

Join the happy shepherds as they all rejoice,
shout and sing and praise him with your heart and voice.
Born of a humble mother,
Jesus, our friend and brother,
Christ is King, Christ is King!

Words: David Illiff Music: Moravian traditional melody, arr David Illiff © David Illiff / Jubilate Hymns

Third Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. *Isaiah 9*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Please stand

Hymn

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. *(Choir)* 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.

4. *(All)* O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks Music: English trad arr Vaughan Williams, v3 Philip Ledger, v4 Thomas Armstrong

Please sit

Fourth Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. *Isaiah 11*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus
ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

*Rejoice with heart and voice! Now is our Saviour
of the virgin Mary born – so rejoice!*

At this time our God fulfils 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!

Words: Pia Cantiones 1582, English words from the Latin, Michael Perry (1942-1996) © Mrs B Perry / Jubilate Hymns

Please sit

Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. St Luke 1

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Please stand

Hymn

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born:
the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd Babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. *(Choir)* But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray:
(All) O tidings of comfort and joy

5. *(All)* Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: English Traditional; Arranged, David Willcocks

Please sit

Sixth Lesson

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. St Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

O come and join the dance that all began so long ago,
when Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.
Through all the years of darkness still the dance goes on and on,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! O lift your voice and sing,
and open up your heart to welcome him.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! O welcome now your King,
for Christ the Lord is born in Bethlehem.*

2. Come shed your heavy load and dance your worries all away,
for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.
He came to break the power of sin and turn your night to day,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

3. Let laughter ring and angels sing and joy be all around,
for Christ the Lord is born in Bethlehem,
and if you seek with all your heart, he surely can be found,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

*Words & Music: Graham Kendrick, arr Richard Hubbard
© 1988 Make Way Music*

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger. St Luke 2

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Please stand

Hymn

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;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.

Words: Nahum Tate; Music Winchester Old

Please sit

Carol

Wise men seeking Jesus, travelled from afar,
guided on their journey by a beauteous star.
But if we desire him, he is close at hand;
for our native country is our Holy Land.

Prayerful souls may find him by our quiet lakes,
meet him on our hillsides when the morning breaks.
In our fertile cornfields while the sheaves are bound,
in our busy markets Lord Jesus Christ is found.

He is more than near us, if we love him well;
for he seeks us ever in our hearts to dwell.

*Words: James T East (1860-1937)
Music: Jonathan Willcocks (b 1953)*

Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. *St Matthew 2*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Please stand

Carol for Choir and Congregation

All

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

All (each time)

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Men

2. Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign:

Ladies

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:

Men

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb.

All

5. Glorious now,, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heav'n sings alleluia,
alleluia the earth replies:

Words & melody: John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891), arr Paul Leddington Wright (b 1951)

Please stand

Ninth Lesson

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. St John I

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every one that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Please sit

Carol

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God –
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross –
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart –
no small wonder!

*Words: Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)
Music: Paul Edwards (b 1955) © Jubilate Hymns*

Address

Hymn

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. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

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

5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
in the highest'.

*Words: Adeste Fideles, translated F Oakeley, W T Brooke & others;
Music: J F Wade, verse 6 arrangement David Willcocks*

Collect & Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God,
who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ:
Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

May he who by his Incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

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, C Wesley, G Whitefield & M Madan; Music, J L F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, verse 3 arrangement David Willcocks

Organ

Final from Organ Symphony No 1 – *Louis Vierne*

*There will be a retiring collection in aid of the work of the Parish Church.
Please join us for wine and mince pies after the service.*

SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER

7:30pm – **A QUIET CHRISTMAS SERVICE – All Saints Oakham**

A simple service of readings, prayers and Christmas hymns for those who are bereaved, or weary, or simply prefer a less jolly, and more quietly reverent celebration of Christ's birth.

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

10:30am – **CAROL SERVICE**

St Mary Ashwell

6:00pm – **CAROL SERVICES**

Whissendine & Brooke

Laudamus will be singing at Whissendine.

CHRISTMAS EVE

JOURNEY TO JESUS

3:30pm – **Braunston**

CRIB SERVICES

4:00pm – **Oakham, Langham, Whissendine**

6:00pm – **Market Overton**

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

9:00pm – **Hambleton**

11:15pm – **Langham, Whissendine**

11:30pm – **Oakham**

CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLY COMMUNION

8:00am – **Oakham, Brooke**

9:00am – **Teigh, Market Overton**

9:15am – **Egleton**

10:00am – **Oakham**

10:30am – **Ashwell**

11:00am – **Braunston.**

FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER

10.30am-12:00pm – **COME AND CHAT All Saints Oakham Church Hall**

All who feel they might benefit are welcome, from the recently bereaved, to those who experienced a significant loss long ago. Members of the Bereavement Supporters Group will be available to offer informal listening support and signpost to other services as appropriate. People are welcome to turn up on the day with no pre-booking required. More details on the website.

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

11:00am – **TEAM HOLY COMMUNION**

St Andrew Whissendine

No other services today except 8:00am at Oakham

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY

10.30am – **TEAM WALKING GROUP**

Hambleton Peninsula

Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch at 8 Peterborough Avenue. It is approx 5 miles (walking time 2¼ hours) and the terrain is on good tracks throughout. Please bring your lunch contributions to Peterborough Avenue for 10am then drive to the Fisherman's carpark at Hambleton for the walk to commence at 10.30am. We will car share as required. Anyone wishing to walk only meet at the Fisherman's park. To enable us to monitor numbers and lunch contributions please ring Sally or Dennis on 01572 722272.

11:30am – **BELLS SERVICE**

St Peter & St Paul Langham

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY

7:30pm – **EPIPHANY CAROL
CONCERT – All Saints Oakham**
With the **Cambridge Fundraising
Choir** in aid of Cancer Research UK.

WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY

MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME RESUMES



*Travel with the Wise Men and the Shepherds
as they journey to Bethlehem to find Jesus*



*The journey begins at
All Saints Church Braunston
Christmas Eve 3.30pm*

*Seasonal Refreshments
in the Village Hall
afterwards*

*Make sure you are warmly
dressed as we shall be
going outside
weather permitting*



All Saints Church Oakham

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Crib Service

The creation and blessing of our Crib

11:30pm Midnight Mass

Candlelit choral celebration of the first communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion

Traditional said service with sermon

10:00am Holy Communion

Sung service with carols and sermon



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Epiphany Carol Concert

Sung by current and former Choral Scholars from
Cambridge University in aid of Cancer Research UK's
Brain Tumour Research



7.30pm on Saturday 4th January 2020

All Saints' Church, Oakham

To buy tickets, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/EpiphanyRutland2020>
or ring Susie on 07809 229292.

<http://www.artsfortheheartofengland.co.uk>





Laudamus – *Joint Choir of the Oakham Team Ministry*

Paul Butler – *Organist*

Kevin Slingsby – *Director of Music*

Revd Stephen Griffiths – *Team Rector*

www.oakhamteam.org.uk