

## THE CHOIR

### Treble

Arina Magar  
Danika Pandian  
Amos Rangayya

### Soprano

Mary Abraham  
Gillian Mascarenhas  
Kusum Parker  
Freny Wankadiya

### Alto

Gopa Khandwala  
Monica Moses  
Smita Patole  
Prema Rodrigues

### Tenor

David Sinate  
Firdause Wadia

### Bass

John Abraham  
Joshua Desai  
Daniel Phillips  
StavanTelgote

### Oboe

Amar Indorkar

*The organist & choirmaster*

Ravi Paul Joshua

*The Cathedral Presbyter*

The Revd Avinash Theophilus Rangayya

### AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER

Could your child be a chorister in  
Bombay Cathedral choir?

*We will be very happy for you to get in touch with us to find out more details.  
Feel free to drop in with your child at choir practice on Sundays at 11 a.m. to get  
a first hand experience of what it feels like to be a cathedral chorister.*

*If you yourself enjoy singing and can make a weekly commitment,  
we'll be happy to hear from you!*

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. Refrain from taking photographs during the service. Thank you for your co-operation.



*O come let us adore Him*

## A FESTIVAL of NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

*The Nativity in scripture, carol and verse*

**ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL**

*Diocese of Mumbai • The Church of North India*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 6:30 p.m.

**Welcome**

*“O come let us adore Him”*

A warm welcome to St Thomas’s Cathedral. It is indeed a joy to be back in church this Christmas. In these uncertain times, may the ‘tidings of great joy’ heralded by the heavenly host of angels so long ago continue to strengthen us and lead us in ‘heart and mind’ to the manger.

This beautiful service (as we know it in its present form) was first instituted by Archbishop Edward Benson in Truro Cathedral (when he was Bishop of Truro) in England. It is based on a medieval vigil liturgy. The service has become well known throughout the world as many parishes, chapels, and cathedrals sing their own service of “Lessons and Carols”.

Listen to the account of the Nativity in scripture, song and verse. The story of the Nativity is read from the Bible by representatives of the Cathedral community here at St Thomas’s. Carols and hymns are sung by the choir and congregation. The scriptures and hymns all combine to express the fulfilment of God’s promise in the good news of great joy for all people, which is the birth of Jesus, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

We invite you to participate fully in our worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Sing the Christmas carols, and respond to the prayers and readings. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God’s Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable. Whatever your background, whatever you are seeking, there’s a place for you here.

Front cover illustration: ‘Adoration of the Shepherds’ by Juan Bautista Maíno (1581 - 1649)

For your safety please respect others and give one another space.  
▼  
Please use **face covering** at all times during the service.  
▼  
Please use **hand sanitiser** on the way in and out.  
▼  
Please take this **booklet away with you** and dispose it yourself.

*As the fanfare is sounded, all **STAND** and sing*

## Carol

**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 Heav'n adored,  
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head 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- 88) & G. Whitefield,(1714 - 70)

Music: Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)

Organ arrangement: David Willcocks

*Remain **STANDING** as the choir and clergy make their way to the West Door*

## Postlude

Fantasia on, “In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach, BWV 729

**3 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?**

**4 Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
 “Glory to God  
 in the highest.”**

Words: Latin, translated F. Oakley (1802 - 80)  
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, by F. J. Wade (c. 1711 - 86)  
 Organ arrangement: David Willcocks

*Please be SEATED*

## The Collect and Blessing

*The Presbyter* The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

*The Presbyter* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*The Presbyter*

CHRIST who by His incarnation gathered into one all things in heaven and on earth, fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, † The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## Organ Prelude

*Pieces from the following selection will be played before the service begins.*

Wachet auf J. S. Bach, BWV 645 (1685 - 1750)  
 (Sleepers wake)

The Advent of our God Bescançon tune, arr. Richard Warner (1908 - 1983)

“Go tell it on the mountain” — Gigue A.D. Miller (b. 1972)

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her J. S. Bach, BWV 606  
 (From Heaven above to earth I come)

Chorale prelude on the melody “Quem Pastores” Healey Willan (1880 - 1968)

Prelude on “Once in royal David’s city” C. P. Cowell

## Welcome

The Revd Avinash Rangayya  
 The Presbyter In-Charge

*As the lights are dimmed, all STAND and keep silence.*



# THE ORDER *of* SERVICE

*Issay! Issay!*

*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.

*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.**

*All*

**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.**

*All*

**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.**

Up in Bethlehem on this holy morn, babe is born.  
Angels in the air singing everywhere  
and they sing, "Hallelujah!"

They sing, "*Issay! Gay-tah the-weh-leh-deh*."\* (The Lord is born.)  
*Issay! Med-hehn the-weh-leh-deh*" \* (The Saviour is born.)  
Hear ye! O, hear ye! Jesu has come today!

Kings from far away come to see the boy.  
Kings from far away shout for joy!  
People join the kings, everybody sings,  
And they sing, "Hallelujah!"

Hear the angels sing,  
Shepherds' voices ring. Hallelujah!  
Everybody sing. Issay!  
Singing to the King! Hallelujah!

Ethiopian Christmas song (arranged: P. Kern)

\* Some phrases in this song are in Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia

*All STAND and sing*

## Carol

**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:**

*Continued*

*Continued*

## The Ninth Lesson

St John I

*Read by the Cathedral Presbyter*

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

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 men 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 man 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: who 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

All

**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: Mrs. C. F. Alexander (1818 - 1895)

Music: Henry John Gauntlet

Tune: *IRBY*, by Henry John Gauntlet (1805 - 1876)

Organ arrangement (last verse) David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

*All remain STANDING*

## The Bidding Prayer

*Read by the Revd Avinash Rangayya, the Presbyter-In-Charge*

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas time 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. Yet first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and of all people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the Church he did build; for goodwill among all the nations of the earth. And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

*All: Amen.*

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, 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.**

*The Presbyter says*

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.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be SEATED*

*All STAND and sing*

## Carol

**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.***

*Ladies sing*

**2 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.**

*Men sing*

**3 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

*All*

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

Traditional English carol

*Remain STANDING for the ninth lesson*

## The Three Kings

## Star carol

Three kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee,  
As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
The kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place,  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King, offer thy heart!

*Chorale (sung at the same time as the above):*

How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heaven afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.  
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'er floweth.

Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing.

Words: Peter Cornelius (1824 – 1874) & Philipp Nicolai (1556 – 1608)  
Music: Peter Cornelius, arr. by Ivor Atkins (1869 – 1953)

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,  
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at this cradle,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

*See his star shining bright  
In the sky this Christmas Night!  
Follow me joyfully;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

John Rutter (b. 1945)

## The First Lesson

Genesis 3. 8 - 15, 17 - 19

*Read by a Chorister*

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden*

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Eighth Lesson

St Matthew 2

*Read by a member of the Cathedral congregation*

*The wise men are led by a star to Jesus*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



***Shepherds loud their praises singing***

Shepherds loud their praises singing,  
Fill the skies with anthem ringing:  
Hence all fears and sadness flinging:  
Born today is Christ our King.

Gentle Child, so still Thou sleepeth,  
Tender watch His mother keepeth,  
O, what pains Thy love it repeath,  
Born today is Christ our King.

Kings to meet Him forth are faring,  
Gold, frankincense and myrrh, preparing:  
Sraight all to the manger bearing;  
Born today is Christ our King.

Lo! the star o'er Bethlehem stayeth:  
Heavens own light the Child arrayeth:  
Peace on earth, goodwill bewrayeth:  
Born today is Christ our King.

Son of God, the earth adorning,  
Angels sing this joyful morning  
Peace on earth, all sadness scorning.  
Born today is Christ our King.

German, 14<sup>th</sup> century  
Arranged with additional verses by Alec Rowley (1892 - 1958)

***This is the truth sent from above***

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Traditional English carol  
Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

## The Second Lesson

Genesis 22

*Read by a member of the choir*

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall the nations of the earth be blessed*

AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All STAND and sing*

## Carol

**GOOD Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

## The Seventh Lesson

St Luke 2

*Read by the Organist & Choirmaster*

*The shepherds go to the manger*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Continued*

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,  
worship night and day,  
a heart full of mirth and a manger full 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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894)  
Music: Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

All **STAND** and sing

## Carol

**ANGELS we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains:**

Refrain: ***Gloria in excelsis Deo.*** (2)

2 **Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heavenly song?**

3 **Come to Bethlehem, and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.**

French Carol

2 *Men sing* **Good Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath oped the heavenly door,  
and man is blessed evermore.**

*Ladies sing*

*All* **Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

Words: Medieval Latin hymn, translated John M. Neale  
Music: German melody, 14th century

All sit

## The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9

*Read by a Server of the Altar Guild*

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour*

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prepare the way of the Lord

Prepare, the way of the Lord! Make straight His path.  
Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;  
and the crooked shall be made straight.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all mankind shall see it together.

Words: based on Isaiah 40.4, 5  
Music: William Rowan (b. 1951)

All **STAND** and sing

### Carol

**JOY to the world! The Lord is come;**  
**Let earth receive her King;**  
**Let every heart prepare Him room,**  
**And heaven and nature sing. (3)**

**2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;**  
**Let men their songs employ;**  
**While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains**  
**Repeat the sounding joy. (3)**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,**  
**Nor thorns infest the ground;**  
**He comes to make His blessings flow**  
**Far as the curse is found. (3)**

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace,**  
**And makes the nations prove**  
**The glories of His righteousness,**  
**And wonders of His love. (3)**

Words: Issac Watts (1674 - 1748)  
Tune: ANTIOCH, by G.F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

All **sit**

## The Sixth Lesson

St Luke 2

*Read by a Cathedral Trustee*

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*In the bleak mid-winter*

In the bleak mid-winter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen 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.

## ***A maiden most gentle***

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.

*Ave Maria*

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation, and Saviour of all.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless "Ave".

Words: Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Music: French traditional melody (arranged by Andrew Carter)

## **The Fourth Lesson**

Isaiah 11

*Read by an office bearer of the Pastorate Committee*

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold*

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Come to us now, Emmanuel***

Darkness has fallen o'er the earth on this winter night  
the world prepares to greet a King.  
Prophets tell of the peace He'll bring.

Come to us now, Emmanuel; all the world awaits.  
We've seen the signs, the time is near.  
We believe You will soon be here.  
Come to us now Emmanuel, as we watch and wait.

Still, still, still, all the world lies quiet and still.  
A star appears in heaven above us;  
God sends a Son to lead us and love us.  
Still, still, still, for the promise is now fulfilled.

Peace, peace, peace, little Child of love and peace,  
come fill our hearts with joy and singing.  
Help us share in the love you bring.  
Peace, peace, peace, help the world to live in peace.

*At the same time, the men sing:*

You are the light we long to see, Child of love and peace.  
Now let our hearts be glad and sing.  
Help us share in the love you bring.  
You are the light we long to see. Help us live in peace.

Words: Nancy Price & Don Besig  
Music: Don Besig, b. 1936 (incorporating the Austrian carol, 'Still, Still, Still')

## The Fifth Lesson

St Luke I

*Read by a member of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service*

*The Archangel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary*

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**