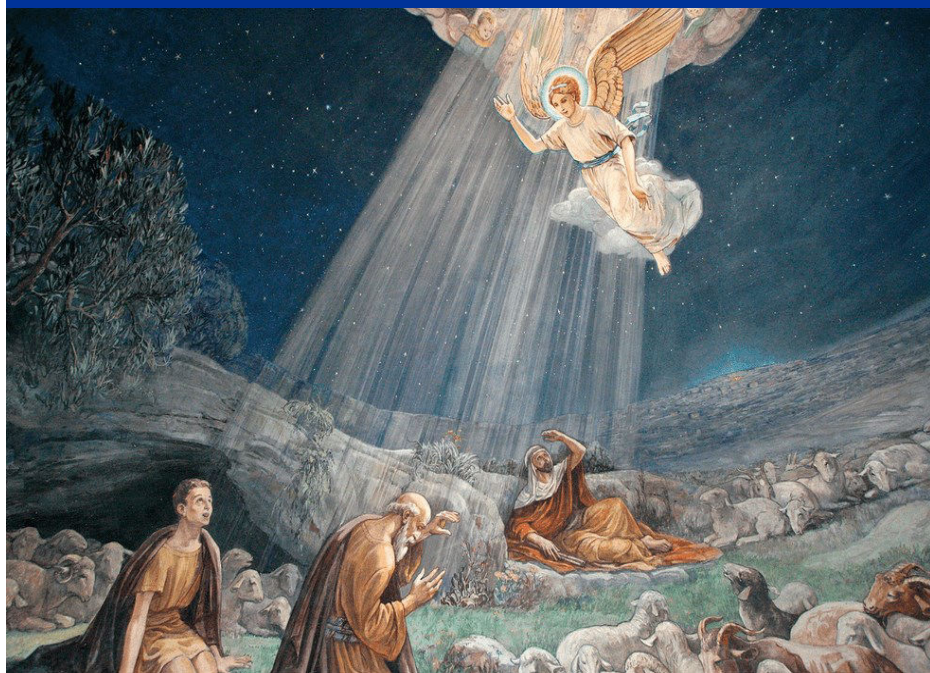


A FESTIVAL of
NINE LESSONS *and* CAROLS



The Nativity in scripture, carol and verse

Saturday 17th December 2022
6:30 p.m.

Welcome

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

Diocese of Bombay • The Church of North India

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

“Rise up shepherd and follow...”

A warm welcome to St Thomas's Cathedral for this service of lessons and carols. We hear once again in verse and song the story of the nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The guests who were invited to celebrate at the world's most remarkable birthday celebration would not have been welcomed to dine in many homes. They did hard, dirty, back-breaking labour that left them smelling like the sheep. The nature of their work did not allow them to keep the ceremonial law. Even more problematic was their reputation for being dishonest. According to rabbinical teaching, shepherds were not to be allowed to testify in law-courts because, as a class, they were considered unreliable. Yet, God sent angels to a group of Shepherds to announce Christ's birth.

God did not dispatch the angels to the kings of the earth because power and wealth don't make one worthy. . God chose those who, like himself, knew what it was to care for creatures who were stubborn and feckless and prone to wander into danger. He chose those who had probably spent many long nights searching for the lost ones and calling them home. God sent his angels to announce the birth of Jesus to a group of shepherds, not because they were worthy, but because his grace extends to all people, even those rejected by society.

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.

Reflections sourced from an article by Lisa Scheffler



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

Please take this **booklet away with you.**

Do not leave it behind.

THE ORDER *of* SERVICE

Music before the service

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

Wachet auf (Sleepers awake)	J. S. Bach, BWV 645 (1685 - 1750)
The Advent of our God	<i>Bescançon</i> tune, arr. Richard Warner (1908 - 1983)
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (From Heaven above to earth I come)	Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)
Prelude on Irby (“Once in royal David’s city”)	David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

Welcome
The Revd Avinash Rangayya
The Presbyter In-Charge

As the lights are dimmed, the choir sings

Introit

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

Words: William Bartholomew (1793 - 1867)

Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829 - 1907)

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.**

Continued

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 Presbyter

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

In Excelsis Gloria

When Christ was born of Mary free,
in Bethlehem in that fair city.
Angels sung e'er with mirth and glee,

In excelsis Gloria.

The King is come to save his kind,
in the scripture as we find;
therefore this song have we in mind:

Then, dear Lord, for Thy great grace,
grant us the bliss to see Thy Face,
where we may sing to thy solace.

A. H. Brown (1830 – 1926)

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.

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

**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 tonight.**

**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 wondering love.**

Continued

Choir

³ *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 **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: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835 - 1893)

Tune: FOREST GREEN

arr. R. Vaughan Williams, descant by Thomas Armstrong

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.

Behold a Virgin shall conceive

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son;
And shall call his name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born,
And unto us a son is given;
And the government shall be upon the shoulder!
And his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace!

Words: Matthew 1: 23

Music: John Peterson (1921 - 2006)
from *The Night of Miracles*

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)

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.

People look East

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim.
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word the Lord is coming!
People look east, and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881 - 1965)

Music: Besançon melody, arr. Barry Rose

The Fifth Lesson

St Luke 1

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.

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad?
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin he set us free
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night
"Glory to God and peace to men
Now and for evermore, amen!"

Words: Attributed to Bishop Luke Waddinge (1628- ca. 1691)
Music: English traditional, arr. David Willcocks

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.

Born a King

Behold, the days come saith the Lord,
that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch,
and a King shall reign and prosper,
and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth.
A King shall reign!

Born a King! On the Christmas long ago,
silver stars were all aglow,
angels came to earth below and sang,
“Glory to God in the highest!”

Born a King! stepping from eternity,
Chirst the Son of God is He,
taking on humanity, O sing,
“Glory to God!”

Only the shepherds gave welcome,
others had turned him away;
only a manger they offered,
out with the cattle He lay:
O what a wonder that yonder we see
there on that cradle of hay.

Born a King! On that Christmas long ago,
silver stars were all aglow,
angels came to earth below and sang,
“Glory, to God in the highest!”

Born a King! Stepping from eternity,
Christ the Son of God is He,
taking on humanity, O sing,
“Glory, to God!”

John Peterson

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.**

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.

Rise up Shepherd

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where Christ was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Chorus

*Follow, follow;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
leave your ewes and your rams;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words;
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

African American Spiritual, arr. Ben Parry

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.

Continued. Turn over.

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.

I saw three ships

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.

² And what¹ was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

³ Our Saviour Christ and his lady
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas day in the morning.

⁴ Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

⁵ Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day in the morning.

⁶ And all the bells on earth shall ring,
 On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
 On Christmas day in the morning.

⁷ And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
 On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
 On Christmas day in the morning.

⁸ And all the souls on earth shall sing,
 On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
 On Christmas day in the morning.

⁹ Then let us all rejoice, amain,
 On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Then let us all rejoice, amain,
 On Christmas day in the morning.

The lyrics mention the ships sailing into Bethlehem,
but the nearest body of water is the Dead Sea about 20 miles (32 km) away.

The reference to three ships is thought to originate
in the three ships that bore the purported relics of the Biblical magi
to Cologne Cathedral in the 12th century.

Words: English traditional carol

Music: Arr. Simon Preston (1938 - 2022)

**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 Ninth Lesson

St John 1

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 sit

Praise to God in the Highest

Praise to God in the highest,
Bless us, O Father to Thee.
Praise to God in the highest,
Praise to Thee.

Guide the Nations, Rulers and People,
Praise to Thee.
May the truth in its beauty flourish triumphant,
Praise to Thee.

May the good be obeyed, and evil be conquered,
Praise to Thee.
Give us laughter, and set us gaily rejoicing,
Praise to Thee.

Peace on Earth and good will be ever amongst us,
Praise to Thee.
Praise to God in the highest,
Bless us O Father, Praise to Thee.

Its recurring refrain of praise frames a rousing pean to international peace and the triumph of good over evil, while petitioning God for the blessings of guidance, truthfulness, goodness, rejoicing, and peace.

Words: Russian folk carol
Translated by Revd Percy Dearmer

Music: Sidney S. Campbell (1909 - 1974)

**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 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.**

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

THE CHOIR

Treble

Alvina Magar
Arina Magar
Danika Pandian
Amos Rangayya
Laxmi Santhanam
Sarah Solomon
Nathanael Suganth

Soprano

Mary Abraham
Aroke Anna*
Supriya Daniel
Swapnita Mane
Cynthia Thyle*

Alto

Rhea Daniel
Larissa Fernandes*
Gopa Khandwala
Smita Patole
Kusum Parker

Tenor

Bryan Colaço*
Apurva Gola*
Agnel Jones*

Bass

John Abraham
Joshua Desai
Garfield Mendonça*
StavanTelgote

* *Guest singers*

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!