



Our carol service
December 19, 2021



**Emmanuel:
God with us!**

*If you are sharing this service from the recording,
please use your own Bible to follow the readings.*

Glenorchy carols December 19, 2021

Order of service

(Hymn numbers in Rejoice & Sing)

160 O come all ye faithful vv1-5

Welcome and opening response

1 The opening of the fourth Gospel: (John 1, 1-18)

126 vv 1,5,6,7 O come, Immanuel

2 The promise of the kingdom: (Isaiah 11, vv1-9)

135 Joy to the world

3 The fullness of time: (Galatians 4, 4-7)

139 The angel Gabriel

4 The birth of Jesus: (Matthew 1, vv18-25)

149 Infant holy (seated)

5 The shepherds go to the manger: (Luke 2, 8-20)

164 Go tell it on the mountain

6 The visit of the wise men: (Matthew 2, 1-12)

New carol: If I could visit Bethlehem (tune 171)

Offertory prayer and intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

136 And art thou come with us to dwell?

Short talk

159 Hark the herald angels sing

Blessing

(retiring collection for Christian Aid's work)

We prepare for worship with a familiar 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:

Chorus: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: O come ...

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze.

We too would thither bend our joyful footsteps: O come ...

Lo, star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;

we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations: O come ...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,

'Glory to God in the highest': O come ...

Opening words:

We have waited for your coming, Lord Jesus Christ,
but our hope has a note of anxiety and uncertainty.

We are ill-prepared for the wonder of your birth, life and death
in which we recognise God with us, Emmanuel.

But now as we approach the heart of Christmas we open
our hearts and minds to what grace really means.

The time is come; the promise is fulfilled;

God has come; Jesus lived and lives still.

God who made us now remakes us.

Thanks be to God, Creator and Saviour.

First reading:

John 1, vv1-18

*In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.*

...

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his
glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. ...*

An Advent hymn:

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bring all peoples to their Saviour King;
thou Corner-stone, who makest one, complete in us thy work begun:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second reading:

Isaiah 11, vv 1-9

*... 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. ...*

The whole earth will be blessed by the coming of Christ:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.

No more let thorns infest the ground or sins and sorrows grow;
wherever pain and death are found he makes his blessings flow.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.



Third reading:

Galatians 4, vv4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The actual Christmas story begins with the Annunciation.

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All Hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady'. Gloria!

Fourth reading: **Matthew 1, vv18-25:**

...

*All this took place to fulfil what
had been spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:*

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son and they shall
name him Emmanuel'.*

...



A Polish traditional carol:

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all; Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks are sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
see the glory, hear the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe is born for you! Christ the Babe is born for you!

Fifth reading* **Luke 2, vv 8-20:*

.....

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.

Our next carol reflects on the experience of those shepherds.

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere:
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light: *chorus*

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth: *chorus*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn: *chorus*

Sixth reading

Matthew 2, vv 1-12

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?

....

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.

A new carol (words by Brian Wren)

If I could visit Bethlehem what presents would I bring?
If I could see what happened then, what would I say or sing?

I wouldn't take a modern toy but gold to pay for bread,
some wine to give his parents joy and wool to warm his head.

I'd learn some simple words to speak in Aramaic tongue;
I'd cradle him and kiss his cheek and say 'I'm glad you've come'.

If Mary asked me who I was and what her child would do
I wouldn't talk about the cross or tell her all I knew.

I'd say "he'll never hurt or kill, and joy will follow tears;
we'll know his name and love him still in twenty hundred years".

I cannot visit Bethlehem but what I can, I'll do:
I'll love you, Jesus, as my friend and give my life to you.

At church there will be a retiring collection for the work of Christian Aid, especially in the holy land.

Those sharing in the recording might wish to make a donation too and are asked to pause the playback at this point to offer their own prayers of concern.

After the prayers of concern we conclude with the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

Then we sing the hymn which sums up the theme:

And art thou come with us to dwell,
our prince, our guide, our love, our Lord?
And is thy name Emmanuel,
God present with his world restored?

The heart is glad for thee: it knows
none now shall bid it err or mourn,
and o'er its desert breaks the rose
in triumph o'er the grieving thorn.

Thou bringest all again; with thee
is light, is space, is breadth, and room
for each thing fair, beloved and free,
to have its hour of life and bloom.

Each heart's deep instinct, unconfessed;
each lowly wish, each daring claim;
all, all that life hath long repressed,
unfolds, undreading blight or blame.

Thy reign eternal will not cease;
thy years are sure and glad, and slow,
within thy mighty world of peace
the humblest flower hath leave to blow.

The world is glad for thee; the heart
is glad for thee, and all is well
and fixed, and sure, because thou art,
whose name is called Emmanuel. Amen.

followed by a short comment.



And is thy name Emmanuel?

The final carol is the traditional one by Charles Wesley:

*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 voice proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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 us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

followed by a Christmas Blessing

*Thank you for sharing in our service.
There will not a service at Glenorchy on Christmas Day but everyone
will be welcome on Sunday December 26 at 10.30am.*

Have a happy, thankful Christmas!