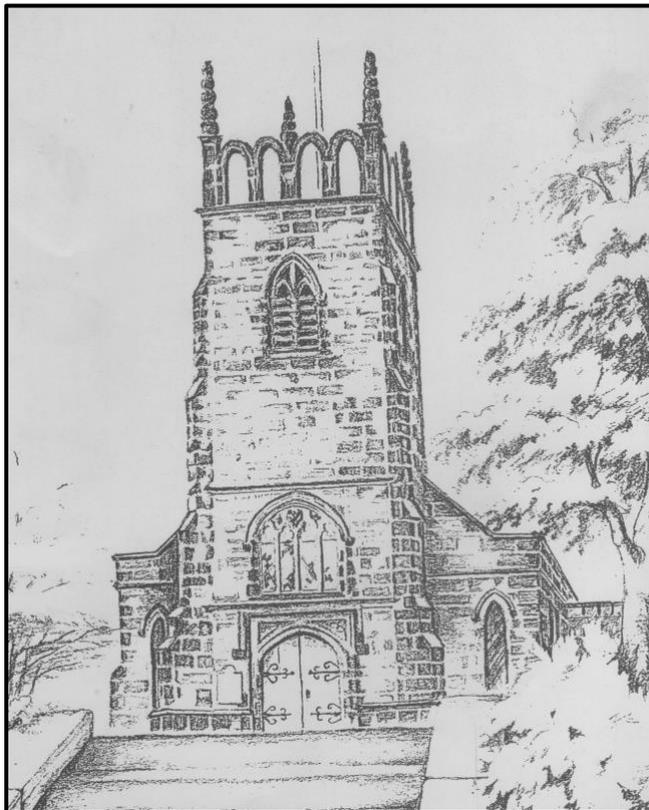


Parish of St James & Emmanuel, Didsbury



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*St James Church, Stenner Lane, Didsbury
Sunday, 19th December 2021, at 6.30pm*

Some words of welcome...

Whether you are here for the first time, or whether this is a regular part of your annual Christmas celebrations, it is our privilege to welcome you to this ancient place of worship.

St James has been a place of Christian worship for over seven hundred and seventy-five years. Much has changed in the world over those centuries, but the wonder of the coming of Jesus Christ that first Christmas is as fresh today as it was all those years ago.

The service this evening is an opportunity to rejoice and reflect on the wonder of the birth of Jesus and all that his birth means to the world at large, and to us as individuals.

During and after the service there will also be an opportunity to support the work of the St James & Emmanuel church family. There is no obligation for anyone to give, but if you would like to then can we encourage you to complete a Gift Aid envelope (available from the back of church). If you are a taxpayer, Gift Aid allows us to boost your gift by twenty five percent at no cost to you. There is also a contactless giving terminal as you entered the building.

And finally, might we encourage you to use the moments before the service as a precious oasis of peaceful space in the midst of the many demands of your Christmas celebrations.

WHO'S WHO?

Service leader: **Nick Bundock, Rector**

Preacher: **Patrick Thom, Ordinand**

Musical Directors: **Lewis and Cat Meaden**

Director of St James Consort: **Christopher Martin**

Organist: **Janice Gardner**

- ***Please take care near the candles and keep an eye out for children near naked flames.***
- *In case we do have to evacuate the building, please familiarise yourself with the marked fire exits (at the front on the right – behind the organ, and at the back through the main doors).*
- *The service will proceed without announcements – please follow the instructions in this service booklet.*

Covid Announcements

Please wear your face-coverings at all times, even while singing.

If you would like to avoid the post-service drinks and mince pies then please exit the building before others at the end of the service.

Others to remain seated till those who wish to leave have done so.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome

Stand

Solo ***Once In Royal David's City***
(solo first verse – Catrin Meaden)

All 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.

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.

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;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Sit *Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)*
Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1849)
Arranged: ©David Willcocks OUP 1970

Rector

Beloved in Christ, be it this evening our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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, in company with the whole Church, 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, within this great city of Manchester and here within Didsbury.

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 the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but, upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh; and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that He hath made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All

**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.**

Choir

In the bleak mid-winter

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

**First
Lesson**

GENESIS 3

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

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. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

Consort **Adam lay ybounden**, Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long,
And all was for an apple, An Apple that he took,
As clerkès finden Written in their book.

Né had the apple taken been, The apple taken been,
Né had never our lady, A-been Heavéné queen
Blessèd be the time That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen,*s Deo Gracias!*

Words: Anon 15th century

Music: Peter Warlock

Second Lesson **GENESIS 22**
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.

Thanks be to God.

Stand **Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night)**

Ladies On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,

Men On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring -

Ladies News of great joy, news of great mirth,
All News of our merciful King's birth.

Men Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,

Ladies Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,

Ladies When from our sin he set us free

All All for to gain our liberty?

All When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
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:
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: Luke Wadding

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Arranged: David Willcocks

Sit

**Third
Lesson**

ISAIAH 9

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.

Thanks be to God.

**Stand
All**

Unto us is born a son,
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know
Becradled in a manger.
Becradled in a manger

Men

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 Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory.
Might lead us up to glory.

All O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino!

Traditional

Translation: G R Woodward

Music: G H Palmer

Sit

Fourth **ISAIAH 11**

Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

All O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
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! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Authorship: Unknown, 8th Century Latin;
Published: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710.
Translated from Latin to English by J.M. Neale (1816-1866) and others.
Arranged: Verse 3 ©David Willcocks 1970*

Sit

**Fifth
Lesson**

LUKE 1

The angel Gabriel salutes 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.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Et in Terra Pax (and on Earth, Peace)

Text adapted from Luke 2:13-14

French Carol 18th c. incorporating Gloria

Music: John Purifoy

**Sixth
Lesson**

LUKE 2

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.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

All

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.

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.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

*Music: Traditional English Melody, arranged Ralph Vaughan Williams and
Thomas Armstrong*

Sit

Seventh Lesson **LUKE 2**
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.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

All

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.

They looked 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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Lyrics: Trad

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Arranged: William Sandys

Sit

**Eighth
Lesson**

MATTHEW 2

The wise men are led by the 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.

Thanks be to God.

Consort The Three Kings

Composed: Peter Cornelius

Arranged: Ronald Corp

Ninth JOHN 1 read

Lesson *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 anything 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.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

All

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new born King!*

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 Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald...

Covid prevents us from passing the collection plate. Please consider leaving a gift in the big brass dish on your way out this evening or using the contactless giving terminal at the rear of the church near the west door. Thank you.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.

Hark! the herald ...

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Felix Mendelssohn Arranged ©David Willcocks OUP 1961

Sit

Homily Patrick Thom

Stand

All 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!

God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!

Text and Music: John Wade (1743)
Arranged: © David Willcocks OUP1961

Rector May he who by his Incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness 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.

All **Amen**

Rector Go in the peace of the Christ-child
and the power of the Spirit
to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen!**

**During the postludium you may exit the church
if you would like to avoid the crowds**

Choir **Joy to the world! the Lord is come;**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872), based on George Frideric Handel , arranged John Rutter

***After the service, you are
most welcome to stay for
mulled wine and mince pies.***

*Words for the above carols are reproduced with permission under
CCL 755471.*

**We warmly invite you to join us for
Advent and Christmas services.**

St James

Christmas Eve

11:15 pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9 am BCP Holy Communion

Boxing Day

10 am United Common Worship Communion

Emmanuel

Christmas Eve

2 pm Christingle

3 pm Christingle

4 pm Christingle

5 pm Christingle

book free tickets at

stjamesandemmanuel.org

Christmas Day

10.30 am United All Age Holy Communion

Boxing Day

No services see St James above