

Village Carol Service Holy Trinity Church



West Runton

Wednesday 21st December 2021

We stand for the opening carol and entrance of the Clergy:

Opening Carol:

O come all ye faithful

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!*

See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our heart's oblations:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

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?
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 heaven 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!

Sit

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Carol: Once in Royal David's City (1st verse 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.

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 through all his wondrous childhood
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.

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 we 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.

A Prayer

First Reading Micah 4: 2 – 4

Response

Leader: The Word of life which was from the beginning

All: We proclaim to you

Leader: The darkness is passing away and
the true light is already shining.

All: The Word of life which was from the beginning

Leader: That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes
and touched with our hands.

All: We proclaim to you

Leader: For our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: The Word of life which was from the beginning,
We proclaim to you.**

Stand

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wondering love.

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.

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!

Sit

Second Reading Luke 1: 26 – 38

Stand

Carol: Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Sit

Third Reading Luke 2: 1 – 7

Stand

Carol: In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
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 midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

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.

Sit

Response

Leader: We proclaim not ourselves,
but Christ Jesus as Lord.
All: And ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake

Leader: For the God who said
Let light shine out of darkness
All: has caused the light to shine within us.

Leader: To give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God.
All: in the face of Jesus Christ.

Candles are lit from the Advent Wreath, the Church lights are dimmed and the candles remain lit until the end of the prayers.

Candle lit carol: Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Sit

Prayers

To the words 'Jesus, light of the world'
Please respond: **We worship and adore you.**

Our prayers conclude with the Lord's prayer

Fourth Reading Luke 2: 8 – 20

Stand

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.

'Fear not' said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Sit

Fifth Reading Two Poems for Christmas

Final Reading John 1: 1 – 14

Stand

Carol: God Rest you merry gentleman

Sit

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
In with true love and brotherhood
Each other new embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Conclusion and Blessing:

Final Carol: Hark the herald angels sing

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.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.
In the name of Christ Amen.

Please join us for one of our other Christmas services in the Runton Parish, which are as follows:

Christmas Eve 4:30 pm **Crib Service** at Holy Trinity West Runton.

Christmas Eve 11:30 pm **First communion of Christmas**, at Holy Trinity West Runton.

Christmas Day 9:15 am **Holy Communion for Christmas**, at St Andrews East Runton.

Boxing Day 10:30 am **Holy Communion for St Stephen**, at Holy Trinity West Runton.