

GLORY

to the
Newborn



KING

Carol Service
11 December 2022

Welcome to our Carol Service

"Glory to the Newborn King"

Welcome to our Carol Service. Our theme this year is "Glory to the Newborn King". That's what all the Bible passages in this service have in common, they declare that Jesus is a King. But what kind of King is he? What kind of Kingdom does he rule over? And how can his birth possibly "cause great joy for all the people"?

Afterwards

At the end of the service please stay for coffee, tea, mulled wine, squash and mince pies served in the hall. Once you have collected them, please move away from the serving area and do use the main meeting area and hall to spread out.

Hearing Aid and Large Print

This church has an induction loop: simply switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position. Large print song sheets are available at the back for anyone who would like one.

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness for those who would like to contribute, but please don't feel any pressure to give.

Need anything else?

If there is anything else you need, please don't hesitate to speak with one of our Welcome Team (the people wearing badges).

Welcome

Bart Erlebach, minister of Emmanuel Church

Carol - Once in royal David's city

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.

(Upper voices)

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.

(Lower voices)

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)

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.

C.F. Alexander 1848

Reading - Isaiah 9: 2,6-7

Read by Richard Pretlove

A prophecy from around 700BC about the birth of a King

- ² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and for ever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Carol - O come, O come, Emmanuel

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 Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

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.

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.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Latin c 13th century
(tr J.M. Neale 1851)

Reading - Luke 1: 26-38

Read by Maria Winning

The King will be born

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

³⁴ 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.'

³⁸ 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Choir - Gabriel's message

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 Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured lady!"
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name."
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, 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!"

An old Basque Christmas carol, translated by S. Baring-Gould

An Engineer and a Christian

An Interview with Phil Bartholomew

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.

Choir - Music on Christmas morning

To greet with joy the glorious morn,
which angels welcomed long ago,
when our redeeming Lord was born,
to bring the light of Heaven below;
the Powers of Darkness to dispel,
and rescue Earth from Death and Hell.

While angels celebrate His birth:
glory to God in highest Heaven,
goodwill to men and peace on earth,
to us a Saviour King is given;
our God is come to claim His own,
and Satan's power is overthrown!

A sinless God, for sinful men,
descends to suffer and to bleed;
Hell must renounce its empire then;
the price is paid, the world is freed,
and Satan's self must now confess,
that Christ has earned a right to bless.

Now holy Peace may smile from Heaven,
and heavenly Truth from earth shall spring:
the captive's galling bonds are riven,
for our Redeemer is our King;
and He that gave His blood for men, for men
will lead us home to God,
will lead us home to God, to God,
will lead us home to God again.

Words by Anne Brontë (adapted)
Music Copyright © 2022 Brian Mayhew

Carol - It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lonely plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Prayers

Led by Marc Evans

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are Yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Carol - The holly and the ivy

The holly and the ivy
when they are both full grown -
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

*Oh, the rising of the sun
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir!*

The holly bears a blossom
as white as any flower;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to be our sweet Saviour.

(Upper voices)

The holly bears a berry
as red as any blood;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to die for all our good.

(Lower voices)

The holly bears a prickle,
as sharp as any thorn;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to wear a cruel crown.

The holly bears a bark
as bitter as any gall;
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to suffer for us all.

The holly and the ivy
when they are both full grown -
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

Reading - Luke 2: 1-7

Read by Ella Erlebach

The birth of the King

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Choir - The little road to Bethlehem

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
the lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them,
along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day,
and rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang.
"The lambs are coming home" sweet Mary sang.
"Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky.
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

As I walked down the road at set of sun
the lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them,
along the little road to Bethlehem.

Words by Margaret Rose, music by Michael Head
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Reading - Luke 2: 8-20

Read by Yasmine Lee

The announcement that the King has been born

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol - The First Nowell

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:

(All)

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

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:

(Upper voices)

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:

(All)

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay:

(Lower voices)

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)

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind hath bought:

Poem - Two Kings

Read by Cara Rodger

The Queen is dead. Long live the King!
But who is he? What will he bring?
What will change? What will stay the same?
"Not my King!" some people call, and eggs are thrown.
A monarchy with mockery?

Remember another king who was mocked?
The King of the Jews who was crowned with thorns?
But that King came in a different way -
He had a carpenter for His father, and a teenage mum,
Not a duke and princess as parents.
There was no palace for His birthplace, no room at the inn.

And that King had shepherds to welcome His birth.
The night watch out in the fields
Were alerted by angels, not a notice on the gate.
There was no other pomp or ceremony at birth or death,
And not much of either in between.
But this was the King who came to die.
This is the King who lives again,
Who came to rule our hearts, but not with military might.
This King is to be worshipped and fully obeyed,
He's the Lord of glory, the King above all kings.

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Reading - Mark 4: 26-29 and Matthew 13: 44

Read by Peter and Lesley Sallabank

What is Jesus' Kingdom like?

²⁶ He also said, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces corn - first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ As soon as the corn is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.'

(Mark 4: 26-29)

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.'

(Matthew 13: 44)

Talk: "Glory to the Newborn King"

Bart Erlebach

Carol - Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the Newborn 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!

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.

Charles Wesley 1739 and others

Closing Prayer

Bart Erlebach

Want to find out more?

There are a few things you can do...

- Please take home a free copy of 'Born a King, New Life to Bring', which is available at the doors as you leave.
- Do come back to Emmanuel Church any Sunday at 10.30 am.
- We'd love to welcome you on 'Hope Explored' - do pick up an invitation as you leave.

We hope you have a very Happy Christmas.