



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings



Sunday 15th December 2024, 7.00pm

ORDER OF SERVICE

Vicar: The Reverend David van Oeveren
Priest Associate: The Reverend Margaret Thompson
Musicians: Kathy Fletcher, Linda Gilchrist

And featuring Guest Choir:
Four's Company
Conductor: Carol Della Barca
Soloist: Antonio Della Barca

Opening Carol:

Once in Royal David's City

SG359 - Words: C F Alexander (1818-1895) - Tune: **IRBY**

- Solo: ¹ 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 meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- All: ³ **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 feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**
- ⁴ **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.**
- ⁵ **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;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Welcome

The Rev'd David van Oeveren

Choir:

Christmas Day in the Morning - medley

Carol:

O Come all ye faithful

SG357 - Words: J Wade, F Oakley & others - Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

- ¹ 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 from God, light from 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!***
- ³ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:
 *O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***
- ⁴ Sing choirs of angels, sing 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!***

Opening Prayers

Choir:

The First Noel

Carol:

It came upon the midnight clear

SG354 - Words: E H Sears / © Jubilate Hymns Ltd - Tune: NOEL

- 1** It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
‘Through all the earth, goodwill and peace
from heaven’s all-gracious king!’
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2** With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long
and, since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong:
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and cease the strife,
to hear the angels sing!
- 3** And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life
with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love
which makes the heavens ring!
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!
- 4** And still the days are hastening on
by prophets seen of old
towards the fulness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed shall see
the prince of peace, their king;
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

Reading 1: **Isaiah 9: 2-7 - Isaiah announces the coming King**

Choir: **We wait, we wait**

Reading 2: **Micah 5: 2-5 - God promises a Ruler from Bethlehem**

Carol: **Long ago, Prophets knew**

*TIS#283 - Words: Fred Pratt Green © Hope Publishing - Tune: **PERSONENT HODIE***

1 **Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

*Refrain: **Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

2 **God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.**

*Refrain: **Ring, bells, ring ...***

3 **Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.**

*Refrain: **Ring, bells, ring ...***

continued ...

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Refrain: *Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Reading 3: Luke 1: 26-35, 38 - *The Angel comes to Mary*

Choir: *Gabriel's Message*

Reading 4: Matthew 1: 18-25 - *God's purpose is explained to Joseph*

Carol: *No wind at the window*

*TiS287 - Words: John Bell © 1992 WGRG / Iona Community – Tune: **MUELLER***

1 No wind at the window
no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand,
no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness,
no ghost raised by fear:
an angel, a woman,
a voice in her ear.

2 'O Mary, O Mary,
don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured
and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming
the world has begun;
and you are requested
to mother God's son.

3 **‘This child must be born
 that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
 destruction for some;
both end and beginning
 both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
 both yours and divine.’**

4 **No payment was promised,
 no promises made;
no wedding was dated,
 no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
 to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
 ‘Tell God, I say Yes.’**

Reading 5: **Luke 2: 1-7 - *Jesus is born***

Choir: ***Mary did you know?***

Reading 6: **Luke 2: 8-16 - *The Shepherds go to the stable***

Carol: ***While Shepherds watched their flocks by night***
SG367 - Words: Nahum Tate - Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

1 **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.**

2 **‘Fear not,’ said he - for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind -
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind:**

continued ...

- 3 **‘To you in Bethlehem this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:**
- 4 **‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.’**
- 5 **Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**
- 6 **‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!’**

Reading 7: **Matthew 2: 1-11 - Travellers come from the East**

Choir: **Little Drummer Boy / Peace on Earth**

Reading 8: **John 1: 1-14 - The Word became flesh**

Carol: **O little town of Bethlehem**
SG358 - Words: P Brooks - tune: FOREST GREEN (Trad. English)

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in your dark streets shining
is everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.**

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love:
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.
- 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 today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell -
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Prayers

Let us pray ...

We sit or kneel

Leader: Jesus, hope of all the world, in your mercy:

All: Hear our prayer.

We gather all our hopes and prayers together,
with the prayer Our Lord has taught us, saying:

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.**

Choir:

O Holy Night / Silent Night

Closing Prayer

Welcome, welcome,
Jesus Christ our infant Saviour,
baby who makes every birth holy.
**May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love,
return to our work with joy.
May we, for whom the heavens have opened
to proclaim that God is with us,
go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day.
Hear this prayer for your name's sake. Amen.**

Blessing

The Rev'd David van Oeveren

Thank you for attending and participating.

You are invited to make a 'Retiring Offering' in the bowl at the back of the Church as you leave; you are welcome to use the Eftpos machine if you wish to make an electronic donation. Your generosity is much appreciated, and assists the Parish with our ministry and mission work in the Greater Hastings area - thank you.

We wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

Closing Carol:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

SG352 - Words: Charles Wesley - Tune: MENDELSSOHN

- 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you 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 heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord
late in time behold Him come,
off-spring of a Virgin’s womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see,
hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as Man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the New-born king!”***

- 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 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!”***



Christmas & New Year Services ... All Welcome

Tuesday, 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Christingle Service at St Matthew's
11.00pm - The First Eucharist of Christmas at St Matthew's

Wednesday, 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am - Christmas Day Eucharist Services
at both St Matthew's Church and St Peter's Church

Sunday, 29th December 2024 - The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am - Combined Worship at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
cnr Market St & Lyndon Rd, Hastings

Sunday 5th January - The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

10.00 am - Whole of Parish Eucharist at St Matthew's,
combined with St Andrew's & St John's Presbyterian Churches

Note: NO 8.00am Eucharist at St Matthew's during January;
and NO Thursday Eucharist at St Matthew's during January -
these services will resume on Thursday 13th February 2025



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

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