

**A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
7PM, 10 DECEMBER 2023**

Welcome to Saint Peter's



The Prophet Isaiah, Michelangelo,
Sistine Chapel Ceiling (1542-45)

Vicar: Rev. Jonathan Chamberlain

Director of Music: Pamela Wainwright

Organist: Andrew Kerr

Choir: Saint Peter's Choir

Carol

(verse 1 soloist, verse 2 choir, verses 3-5 choir and congregation)

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.

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 mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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,
 When his children gather round,
 Bright like stars, with glory crowned.
 Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Choir

People Look East

Recitative

Comfort ye my people

'Comfort ye my people,' saith your God. 'Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of Him, that crieth in the wilderness: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert, a highway for our God".

The Processional Carol

1

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 you, O Israel.*

2

O come, O come, great Lord of might
 Who to the tribes on Sinai's height

In ancient times did give the law
 In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

3

O come, O 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! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

4

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save
 and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

5

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
 Our spirits by your advent here;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

The Bidding Prayer

(Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, 1918).

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence

All **that we may behold your power and glory.**

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight 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 the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore 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.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this diocese of Melbourne.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in

the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has 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.***

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All Amen.

The First Lesson

GENESIS 1.1-5

And God said: Let there be light

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered

the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Choir

Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing?

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22.15-18

The promise to Abraham

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Carol

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

1. Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

2. Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised Fruit to man displayed.

3. From God the Father He proceeds,
To God the Father back He speeds;
His course He runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

4. O equal to the Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

5. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

6. All laud to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee;
All glory, as is ever meet,
To God the Holy Paraclete.

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9.2,6,7

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Carol

We three kings

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Chorus:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Chorus

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Chorus

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,

sounds through the earth and skies.

Chorus

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5.2-5

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labour has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
 Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
 and he shall be the one of peace.

For the Word of the Lord,

All thanks be to God.

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. 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 heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. 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 lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. 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.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
To prophets shown of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,

When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And all the world repeat the song
Which now the angels sing.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1.26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said,

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem (verse 3 choir only)

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
the 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 on 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!

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1.18-23

The Birth of Emmanuel

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill 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,”
 which means, “God is with us.”

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Choir

Carol of the Birds

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2.8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”
 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.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Choir

A Maiden Most Gentle

The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2.1-11

The magi are led by the star to Jesus

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? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

A collection will be taken up during the singing of the two hymns.

Carol

Silent night

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
 round the virgin mother and child.
 Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing
 Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Carol

Away in a manger

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

The Ninth Lesson

JOHN 1.1-14a

The incarnation of the Word of God

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 any thing 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.

For the Word of the Lord,
All thanks be to God.

Choir

See amid the Winter's Snow

The Collect & Blessing

The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
 creator of light and darkness,

to you be glory and praise for ever.
 As evening falls, you renew your promise
 to reveal among us the light of your presence.
 May your word be a lantern to our feet
 and a light upon your path
 that we may behold your coming among us.
 Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness
 and free our tongues to sing your praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit.
***All As it was in the beginning, is now,
 and ever shall be;
 world without end. Amen.***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
 scatter the darkness from before your path,
 and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
 and the blessing of God Almighty
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 be among you, and remain with you,
 now and always.
All Amen.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Dismissal Carol
O come all ye faithful

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 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.

3. See how the shepherds,
 Summoned to his cradle,
 Leaving their flocks draw nigh with lowly fear;
 We too will thither,
 Bend our gentle footsteps.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

4. Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us do dearly?
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

5. 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.

Please join us for a light Supper and Christmas Drinks

Saint Peter's Anglican Church Brighton Beach

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Service Times

8:30am Sunday Holy Eucharist
10am Sunday Sung Holy Eucharist
12 noon Kids Church (1st Sunday of the month)
10am Wednesday Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service
for children and families
11:30pm for
Midnight
Holy Communion

Christmas Day
9am Holy Communion

Saint Peter's Online
www.saintpeters.org.au

Vicar
The Revd. Jonathan Chamberlain
B Bus Grad Dip Arts Grad Dip Securities M Div Grad Dip
Theology