

ST PETER

—
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN



Advent Words and Music

SOME NOTICES TO HELP THE SERVICE RUN SMOOTHLY

Masks and Social Distancing: St Peter's asks you to wear masks unless you are exempt. Limited socially distanced seating is available in the galleries (and at the back of the church for those with mobility issues).

Children: Parents with young children may prefer to sit towards the back of church where there is a little more space for children. We look forward to celebrating the birth of God as a noisy baby at Christmas. The more little reminders of this there are during the service the more we are reminded of the first Christmas!

Toilet facilities: These are below the church. Please leave by the main entrance, turn right and go down the ramp. There is an accessible toilet near the entrance into the crypt.

Collection: A retiring collection will be taken at the end of the service to support the mission of St Peter's and its building, and the range of charities and community groups St Peter's is committed to support. Alternatively, you can donate via our website (stpeterdebeauvoir.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code below.

Donate here:



Carol - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save. *Refrain.*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb. *Refrain.*

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain.*

O come, O come, Adonai!
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder law. *Refrain.*

Cologne 1710, trans Lacey (1853 - 1931) arr. David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

Welcome - Fr Simon Cuff, Vicar of St Peter's

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 De Beauvoir Town. 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 hath taught us:

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done,
 in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

May 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.

Reading - *Nativity*

The moon is born
and a child is born,
lying among white clothes
as the moon among clouds.
They both shine, but
the light from the one
is abroad in the universe
as among broken glass.

R. S. Thomas (1913 - 2000) from Experimenting with an Amen (1986)

Reading - BC: AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

U. A. Fanthorpe (1929 - 2009), from Christmas Poems (Enitharmon Press 2002)

Solo - Bethlehem Down

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Peter Warlock (1894 - 1930)

Reading - *St Matthew's Gospel 1.18 - 24*

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 fulfil 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.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Reflection - Fr Simon, Vicar.

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 all the 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!

Words by Philip Brooks (1835 - 1893), traditional melody arr. R. V. Williams (1872 - 1958)

Reading - *The Winter is Cold, is Cold*

The winter is cold, is cold.
All's spent in keeping warm.
Has joy been frozen, too?
I blow upon my hands
Stiff from the biting wind.
My heart beats slow, beats slow.
What has become of joy?
If joy's gone from my heart
Then it is closed to You
Who made it, gave it life.

If I protect myself
I'm hiding, Lord, from you.
How we defend ourselves
In ancient suits of mail!
Protected from the sword,
Shrinking from the wound,
We look for happiness,
Small, safety-seeking, dulled,
Selfish, exclusive, in-turned.

Elusive, evasive, peace comes
Only when it's not sought.
Help me forget the cold
That grips the grasping world.
Let me stretch out my hands
To purifying fire,
Clutching fingers uncurled.
Look! Here is the melting joy.
My heart beats once again.

Madeleine L'Engle (1918 - 2007) from The Ordering of Love (Shaw Books 2005)

Choir Carol - *In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter 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 mid-winter 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.

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.

Words by Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1984); arr. Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

Reading - *St Luke's Gospel 2.8-20*

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 Saviour, 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 favours!' 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Instrumental

Reading - *The Christmas Life*

Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian spruce,
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold.
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold -
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Bring red and green and gold, bring things that shine,
Bring candlesticks and music, food and wine
Bring in your memories of Christmas past.
Bring in your tears for all that you have lost.

Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and ass,
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,
Bring in a birth, of hope and love and light.
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Wendy Cope, from If I Don't Know (Faber and Faber, 2001)

Carol - *Unto Us Is Born a Son*

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires 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,
Be cradled in the manger,
Be cradled in the manger.

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.

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

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

Words and melody from Piae Cantiones (1582), arranged by David Willcock (1919 - 2015)

Reading - *Prayer for a New Mother*

The things she knew, let her forget again-
The voices in the sky, the fear, the cold,
The gaping shepherds, and the queer old men
Piling their clumsy gifts of foreign gold.
Let her have laughter with her little one;
Teach her the endless, tuneless songs to sing,
Grant her her right to whisper to her son
The foolish names one dare not call a king.
Keep from her dreams the rumble of a crowd,
The smell of rough-cut wood, the trail of red,
The thick and chilly whiteness of the shroud
That wraps the strange new body of the dead.

Ah, let her go, kind Lord, where mothers go
And boast his pretty words and ways, and plan
The proud and happy years that they shall know
Together, when her son is grown a man.

Dorothy Parker (1893 - 1967)

Blessing followed by *St John's Gospel 1.1 - 14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

Words by Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788), music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Welcome to St Peter's!

St Peter's is a church family in which everyone is welcome. Our service of readings and carols for Advent look forward to our celebration of Christmas. Christmas celebrates God's birth as a human being in Jesus Christ and his lived amongst us - a life lived in all its fulness.

Our Christmas celebrations are a taste of that life in all its fulness which God wishes for us all. St Peter's is a community gathered together to celebrate this life and to grow in faith and love of God and of each other.

Christmas Services at St Peter's - all welcome!

Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve (24th December) 10.30pm

A joyful & traditional service of carols and Communion that marks the beginning of Christmas Day and God's birth as one of us.

Christmas Day Eucharist (Saturday 25th December) 10am

A celebratory service of carols and Communion - a wonderful way to start Christmas Day - everyone is welcome.

St Stephen's Day Eucharist (Sunday 26th December) 10am

A shorter contemplative service of Holy Communion - a chance to pause and reflect amongst the busyness of the Christmas season.

Regular Services at St Peter's

Sunday Parish Eucharist with Noisy Church 10am

A joyful celebration of Christ's presence in our community and in our celebration of Eucharist together. Noisy Church for children. All welcome!

Morning & Evening Prayer

Monday - Wednesday, Friday 8.30am & 5.30pm

We begin and end most weekdays with 20 minutes of reflective prayer. Prayer requests welcome. A wonderful way to mark the rhythm of the day.