

# Carol Service

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Welcome** Tom Wright

**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.

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.

**All:** 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.

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 like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

**Reading** 2 Samuel 7:12-14a  
Howie Teoh

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;**  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground:  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

**Reading**    **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**  
Katherine Laramée

**Solo**            **How Suddenly**  
Jocelyn Tsang

How suddenly a baby cries, and all forever change  
As shepherds leave the angel song to find this holy place,  
Where in her young and trembling arms a virgin holds her Son  
And in this Child of breath divine our Light has finally come.

She ponders how the Magi kneel before Emmanuel.  
With gold and frankincense and myrrh Christ's sacrifice they tell.  
A dream would help them flee a king whose pride would cruelly destroy.  
As mothers weep God's mercy meets the hunger for his joy.

How suddenly a baby cried and all forever changed.  
Through history soul by soul have come to find his healing grace.  
He filled my troubled heart with peace, with hope of endless worth.  
My voice will join the song of praise that tells Messiah's birth.

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**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, good will to men,  
From Heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hov'ring 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 give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

**E. H. Shears (1810 – 1876)**

**Reading**    **Matthew 1:18-21**  
Christian Züend

**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:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked 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:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

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:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

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:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**Reading**      **Matthew 2:1–12**  
Charis Chung

**Talk**            **Matthew 2:1–12**  
Chris Fishlock

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> "' And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

<sup>11</sup> And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### **Jesus is God's promised king**

- Attention demanded
- Response invited

**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.'

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**Close**

## Next Steps

Please take a copy of **Matthew's gospel** to read an eyewitness account of Jesus' life.

If you would like to investigate Christianity further, please sign up for one of our **Christianity Explored** courses starting in January.

**Mondays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January**    **6pm – 7pm**    **On Zoom (Sign up for link)**  
**Tuesdays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January**    **6pm – 7pm**    **In person (St Nick's Church, EC4V 4BJ)**

Return the sign up card on your chair to a member of staff or post it in the box at the back as you leave.

## Next Year

Please join us as we meet together every Sunday morning, here at St Nick's.

Coffee and pastries from 10.30am, service 11am-12.15pm.

We will meet on Christmas day at the same time. We will NOT have a Sunday service on Boxing Day.

Our service is live streamed. You may feature if you're in shot of the camera.

We may take photos and videos for our website and social media. Speak to a steward if you would rather not feature.

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