

***ST. SIMON STOCK PARISH
CAROL SERVICE 2020***

A SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS



Welcome to the St. Simon Stock Parish Carol Service

Today's service is a traditional service of six readings and carols and an opportunity during these strange times to be able to sing some traditional Christmas carols together at home. Please join us in singing out with joy to herald the coming of the Christ Child.

Our warmest greetings to all present and hope you have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Fr. Pawel sends his Christmas blessings and good wishes to you all.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord x 2

And all people shall see the salvation of our God x 2

Alleluia x 8

Opening Carol

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 Day-Spring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Invitation to Worship & Introduction

First Reading

A Reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light:" and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

It came upon a 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 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 lowly 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 prophets 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

Second Reading A Reading from the Book of Micah

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore being to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be at peace.

Oh 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.

Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy 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 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 in us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Third Reading A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-peace.

In the bleak midwinter 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day
A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

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.

Fourth Reading A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath). He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

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 Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

Fifth Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of St Luke

The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you." She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have on God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end!" Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?" "The Holy Spirit will come upon you", the angel answered, "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called the Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God." "I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary. "Let what you have said be done to me." And the angel left her.

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

With 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 pleaseth 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!

Sixth Reading A Reading from the Gospel of St John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its beginning but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave the power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

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 (x 3)
Christ the Lord

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 (x 3)
Christ the Lord

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 (x 3)
Christ the Lord

Blessing

Final Carol

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing (x2)
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The saviour reigns; let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy (x2)
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 (x2)
And wonders, wonders of his love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Parish Choir and
Kim the organist for helping us enjoy and join
in with the Christmas music.

