



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister:Rev. Ken Day
Director of Music:Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor:Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar:Benjamin McKenzie



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www.ssms.org.au

20 December 2015 – 10 am

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Led by Rev. Ken Day

Before the Service

Harp Preludes *played by Joanne Bae*

3rd movement from Sonata in C minor - Jan Ladislav Dussek (1760 - 1812)

Menuet and *Polka* from 'Suite of Eight Dances' - Carlos Salzedo (1885 - 1961)

Processional Carol *(please stand)*

Once in Royal David's City (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 mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All

3. And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Advent Wreath

The Candle of Peace

Lord God we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. We who live in discord and strife have found peace in the promise of eternal life, through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The candle is lit.

O God, we wait for your loving kindness.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, at this holy time, let us prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels. In heart and mind let us go again to Bethlehem, to see this thing which has come to pass, and with the Magi to adore the child lying in his mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God and the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church, dedicated to his first martyr Stephen, glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world: for peace over all the earth; for unity within the church and goodwill between people of different faiths and of none; for the well-being of this land and city. And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; prisoners and asylum seekers; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which nobody can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

1st Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his offspring will strike at the serpent's head.

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." **13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." **14** The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Thanks be to God.

Hymn ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** (Veni Emmanuel)

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 thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who madest all in earth and sky,
creating man from dust and clay:
to us reveal salvation's way.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PTO for verses 3 - 5

3. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of Hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

5. O come, Desire of Nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2nd Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, **16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** 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, **18** and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Sans Day Carol

Cornish traditional carol arranged by John Rutter (1945 -)

1. Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary she bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:

Chorus:

*And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

2. Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary she bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Chorus

3. Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary she bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Chorus

4. Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

Chorus

3rd Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

2 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. **6** For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** 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.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

On Christmas Night 'Sussex Carol'

English traditional arranged by Philip Ledger (1937 -)

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen!"

4th Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; **4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth

with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **6** The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. **9** They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Carol ***The First Nowell*** (First Nowell)

1. 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!

2. 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!

3. 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!

PTO for verse 4

4. 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 has bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
born is the King of Israel!

5th Lesson: St Luke 1:26-33, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** 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. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

38 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.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

A maiden most gentle

Words: Andrew Carter (1939 -)

Music: French traditional arranged by Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless Amen
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

6th Lesson: St Luke 2:1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was

descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Nativity Carol

Text & Music: John Rutter (1945 -)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.

Refrain:

*Far away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
Over her Son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

Refrain

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills
Worship this Babe so rare, hearts with warmth He fills.

Refrain

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming Babe, make me Thy love to know.

Refrain

7th Lesson: St Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" **15** 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." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

Carol ***While Shepherds Watched their Flocks***

(Winchester Old)

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 all mankind."

PTO for verses 3 - 6

3. "To you, in David's town, 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 meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake 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 heav'n to men
begin and never cease!"

8th Lesson: St Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** 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." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** "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.' " **7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** 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." **9** 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. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** 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.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

O Holy Night

Text: J S Dwight

Music: Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;
in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger,
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

9th Lesson: St John 1:1-14 *(please stand)*

St John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. **14** 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.

Thanks be to God.

*The **Offering** will be taken up during the singing of the hymn.*

Carol ***O come, all ye faithful*** (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;

Refrain

*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;

Refrain

*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 joyful footsteps;

Refrain

4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest;

Refrain

Prayers

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fulness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Carol *Hark! the herald angels sing* (Mendelssohn)

1. 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 the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n 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 newborn King!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n 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 newborn King!"

Organ and Brass Postlude

Toccata in C on 'Angel's Song'

Robert W Parker (1960 -)

Musicians

Harp

Joanne Bae

St Stephen's Brass Ensemble

Leader: Byron Westbury

St Stephen's Choir

Organists

Mark QuarmbyDirector of Music

Benjamin McKenzie.....Organ Scholar

Conductor

Dr David Hood

Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)

Please join us for our other Christmas Services.

24th December - Christmas Eve

11.00pm - Lessons and Carols with brass, harp and choir,
led by Rev. Ken Day

25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am - Morning Worship with Choir led by Rev. Ken Day

You are most welcome to join us in worship every Sunday morning at 10.00am. We celebrate the Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. A short mid-week service is also held at 1.00pm on Tuesdays (Feb - Dec).

On Fridays you are most welcome to attend our **Friday Music** concerts, featuring many of Sydney's leading young musicians (Feb - Dec). Please check the church web site for more details. www.ssms.org.au

If you are interesting in joining the choir, please contact the Director of Music, Mark Quarmby on 0413 166 803 or by email mark@ssms.org.au