

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

6.00 pm
17 December 2023

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

For over 190 years a community has gathered at St John's to worship God and to demonstrate faith at work in our daily lives. Our Parish Church serves the Hyde Park Estate, the area north of Sussex Gardens, Praed Street and the Paddington Basin, but our members come from across our city. This building provides a sacred space for prayer and meeting between God and his people.

We have carefully designed our service to help us celebrate life, to comfort us where we hurt and to challenge us where we have grown complacent. In all we do, we seek to equip each other to live out our faith wherever we may be. As a tangible expression of Jesus' openness to all, St John's welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic circumstances or spiritual background to our worshipping community.

We welcome all who seek God and invite you into our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our city. Come join us as we seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our communities here in London.

Further information about St John's can be found on our web site:

www.stjohns-hydepark.com.

Follow us: @StJohnsHP

Stephen Mason
Vicar



Please sit for the readings and choral selections and stand to sing the hymns.

During this evening's service a collection will be taken. If you are a UK taxpayer, please use the envelope provided in your order of service and complete the Gift Aid Declaration on the front of the envelope.

Once in Royal David's City

*Author: Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)
Tune: H J Gauntlett
Arr A H Mann*

Choir 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.*

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 meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.**

**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.**

Please remain standing.

THE BIDDING

Vicar Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be 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 that has come to pass and the Babe lying in a manger.

Sit or kneel 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 fellowship within the church he came to build - and especially in this city of Westminster in the Diocese of London - and because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and the 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 that 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 one 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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**

now and forever. Amen.

Vicar 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 the Angels bring us all.

All **Amen.**

Choir *Adam Yay Ybounden - Bob Chilcott*

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter thought he not too long,
and all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
be had ne'er our Lady a-been heaven queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was;
therefore we moun singen: Deo gratias!*

THE FIRST LESSON

Read by The Reverend Geoff Neale, St John's Hyde Park

Genesis 3.8-15

Humanity falls short of God's plan

Adam and Eve 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. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree and I ate.' 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.' 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. 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.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*Edmund Sears 1810-76
Adapted Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900*

**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 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 blessèd 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.**

Choir The Night of Wondrous Joy - M. Webb

*It happened on a special night,
the stars above were more than bright.
The moon shone with a shimmering glow
on the rolling hills below.
The shepherds on that night so still.
They left their flocks out on the hill
to come and worship and adore
the baby King they knelt before.
On a night of wondrous joy,
God sent to us a King a baby boy.
It was all part of his glorious plan
to bring perfect peace to man.
Oh, let all the heavens and the earth proclaim
“Hosanna in excelsis” to His name.
The world was changed by Him,
a baby boy on that night of wondrous joy.
The wise men saw the star from far away.
To seek it out they travelled night and day.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Read by Antonia Cox, Hyde Park Estate Association

Genesis 22.11-18

God's promise to Abraham

But the angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’ 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.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *In the Snow – P Cleary*

I heard a voice sing hallelujah. In the still of the night there was no sound, there was no light, just hallelujah. Then I looked once more and thought I saw the first glimpse of snow.

*Snowflakes floating gently down, noses red and eyes a-glow.
Children carolling all around, dancing and singing in the snow.
Fill your cup and toast Noel, let the wine and spirits flow.
All the families joining hands, dancing and singing in the snow.
Look at the world and see it glitter, hidden beneath a bed of white.
Everything sparkles and everything glows, dancing and singing in the snow.*

*Let us listen to our children, see how they laugh, see how they play.
Coming together all over the world, dancing and singing in the snow.
So let our hearts be filled with gladness just as the sky is bright with stars.*

*We'll let our voices ring out louder as we sing, together we sing.
Snowflakes floating gently down, noses red and eyes a-glow.
Children cajoling all around, dancing and singing in the snow.*

*Fill your cup and toast Noel, let the wine and spirits flow.
All the family joining hands, dancing and singing in the snow.*

*I heard a voice sing hallelujah, I heard it singing hallelujah.
And it sang in the snow.*

THE THIRD LESSON

Read by Gary Griffin, Landlord of the Monkey Puzzle

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Bishop Phillips Brooks
English traditional tune
arr R Vaughan Williams*

**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 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 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.**

**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 FOURTH LESSON

Read by Andy Beverley, Hyde Park Estate Residents

*Isaiah 11.1-9
The Messiah's kingdom of peace*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *Terly Terlow – G Holst*

*Terly terlow, terly terlow,
so merrily the shepherds began to blow.
It was the midde of the night:
adown from heaven they came a light.
Terly terlow.*

*Angels there came a company
with merry songs and melody.
The shepherds anongan them aspy.
Terly terlow.*

*The shepherds hied them to Bethlehem
to see that blesséd Sonnébeam,
and there they found the World's Lightstream.
Terly terlow.*

*Now pray we to that meek Child
and to his mother that is so mild,
whose maidenhood was never defiled.
Terly terlow.*

FIFTH LESSON

Read by Laura Whyte, Church Commissioners for England

Luke 1.26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin 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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Silent Night

*"Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" (1818) by Franz Xaver Gruber
lyrics by Joseph Mohr*

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 Alleluia,
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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.**

SIXTH LESSON

Read by Gaynor Scruton, Churchwarden

Matthew 1.18-25

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

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, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *Lullaby - M Sheppard*

Lulla Lullaby. Sweet Lullaby.

*With the closeness of your breathing with your hand held
in my own. Stillness comes upon your unruffled beauty
and as rest folds gently home. Little bird sleep has flown.
In the half light gently sleeping all your troubles let me keep.
Dancing in the garden all life swells before you.
Treasures time leaves us to keep. Silent waters run deep.
You're my summer you're my winter, you're my world my
everything.*

*All I have I give you surrendered, votive.
You're my perfect little thing, you're my music I sing.
Time means nothing to you yet. No practice of regret.
Mere days advance as years, Strangers to all fears.*

*I pray you stay. So I sing you by and by.
This sweet mother's lullaby.*

SEVENTH LESSON

Read by Councillor Md Shamsed Chowdhury, Hyde Park Ward

Luke 2.8-20

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 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *Every Stone Shall Cry – W Todd*

*A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky.
The stars shall bend their voices and every stone shall cry.
A barn shall harbour heaven and an oxen shall become a shrine.
This child through David's city in triumph by.*

*The palm shall strew its branches and every stone shall cry,
through heavy dull and dumb,
and lie within the roadway, to pave His kingdom come.
Yet He shall be forsaken and yielded up to die.*

*The sky shall groan and darkness and every stone shall cry.
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.
But now as at the ending the low is lifted high.
The stars shall bend their voices and every stone shall cry.*

*And every stone shall cry in praises for the child by whose decent
Among us the world was reconciled, the world. Amen.*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Oakeley, Brooke & others
arr David Willcocks*

**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!

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear:
we, too, will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:**

O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**Lo! star-led chieftains,
magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh.
We to the Christ child
bring our hearts' oblations:**

O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us adore him.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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!

EIGHTH LESSON

Read by Councillor Ian Adams, Deputy Lord Mayor, City of Westminster

Matthew 2.1-11

The magi are led by a 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *O Holy Night – A Adams arr. D Graybeal*

*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,
til he appeared and the soul 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, O night when Christ was born.
O night O holy night. O night divine.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another,
his law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains He shall break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all with in us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we.
His power and glory ever more proclaim.*

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices.
O night divine. O night when Christ was born.
O night O holy night. O night divine.*

*During the following hymn a collection will be taken in support of
St John's music.*

Unto Us a Son Is Born

Traditional

Translator: Percy Dearmer (1928)

Tune: Puer Nobis

**Unto us is born a son,
King of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun,
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 a manger.**

**This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
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!**

**O and A and A and O,
cum Cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino.**

Please stand.

NINTH LESSON

Read by The Reverend Alex Norris

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1.1-14

St John unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

Choir *Nowell (Hodie) – R V Williams, arr N Miller*

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie salvator apparuit:

Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli:

Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: gloria in excelsis Deo: Alleluia.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Christmas Day, Christ was born on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day, our Saviour was born on Christmas Day,

Christmas Day, on earth are angels singing, archangel rejoicing.

Christmas Day, rejoice ye just men, saying,

Glory to God in the highest: Alleluia.

Kneel **THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

O God, you make us glad
with the yearly remembrance

of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ.
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

George Whitefield 1714-1770 & Martin Madan 1726-1790

Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Please stand.

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

Vicar Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Vicar May he, who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
bestow upon you
the fullness 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.
All **Amen.**

Voluntary

Sleigh Ride - L. Anderson

Christmas and Epiphany at St John's Hyde Park

DECEMBER

- 24** **Crib Service**
16:00 Children's service where we tell the story of Christmas, build our crib and welcome the baby Jesus into our midst.
- 23:30** **Midnight Mass**
First Eucharist of Christmas with choir and orchestra. The mass setting is *Coronation Mass in C K317* – W A Mozart
- 25** **Christmas Day**
10:00 Fun family service with choir and orchestra to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child.

JANUARY 2024

- 07** **Epiphany Procession**
10:00 Parish Eucharist with procession of kings, camels and gifts for the new born king. Followed by fizz and canapé reception.
- 14** **Epiphany Carols**
18:00 Readings and music to tell the story of Jesus being revealed to the world. Music by Rutter, Dove, Underwood, Elgar, Jenkins and Morricone.

www.stjohns-hydepark.com