



Free Church of St Andrews

Carol Service

Sunday 7th December 2025

(Choir)

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 mean 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 Heaven 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.

Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander (1818–1895)



Reading: Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad
when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken
as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads to thee
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

From the Latin (13th Century)
John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and others

Reading: John 1:1–14

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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."*

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 newborn 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 newborn King."*

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Reading: Luke 1:26–38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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.

(Choir) 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.

(All) 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.

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

Reading: Matthew 1:18–23

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).

The first Noël, Earth and Heaven embraced

As a virgin beheld her new born babe
From realms on high to a manger on Earth
Salvation had dawned in a lowly birth.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

The Son of God, in kindness He came
As a friend to the hopeless, the lost, and the lame
Our sins He bore yet His name we despised
And the hands that brought healing were pierced as He died.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

The Author of Life, there lifeless He lay
As the grave cast its shadow and darkness reigned
Then out of death broke forth a great light
As He rose up in victory, the glorious Christ.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That has made Heaven and Earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

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Sovereign Grace Worship (verses 1–3)

¹ 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, ² 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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "'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.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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.

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...

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...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born of virgin mother.
Jesus, to thee be glory given,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him...

Latin, 18th century
tr. Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)



Please join us after the service for mulled apple juice and chocolates.

Each year our Christmas collection supports charities in St Andrews and further afield. This year we will be supporting Storehouse and Restored Hope Zambia. Storehouse aims to serve the vulnerable in the North East of Fife by providing food and toiletries to individuals and families who are in crisis. Restored Hope Zambia works to support church abuse survivors and help prevent abuse. Please place donations in the boxes at the back. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Events and Services:

14 th December	10:30am – Morning Service 3pm – Just Join In Nativity 6pm – Evening Service
21 st December	10:30am – All-Age Service 6pm – Evening Service
25 th December	10:30am – Christmas Day Service
28 th December	10:30am – Morning Service

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