



**Stephen with St John  
Westminster  
[www.sswsj.org](http://www.sswsj.org)**

# *Service of Lessons and Carols*

***Before the Service, Seasonal Music will be played.***

*The Clergy and Choir assemble at the back of church, turn and face the font for the reading.*

**First Lesson:** Micah 5.1 - 4

**Introit:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*All*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
redeem thy captive Israel,  
that into exile drear is gone  
far from the face of God's dear Son.**

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

*Choir*

O come, O come, Adonai,  
who in thy glorious majesty  
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
gavest thy folk the ancient law.

*All*

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
the royal door fling wide and free;  
safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
and bar the way to death's abode.**

**The Advent Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away  
the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day, when he shall come again  
in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

*The congregation's candles are lit*

**Processional Hymn:** Once in a Royal David's City

*Verse 1 choir only*

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.

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.

4. 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.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
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. 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,  
where like stars his children crowned,  
all in white shall wait around.

**Welcome and Bidding Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All extinguish their candles now*

**Second Lesson:** Genesis 3.20-24

**Choir sings:** This is the Truth Sent From Above – arr. Vaughan William

**Third Lesson:** Genesis 22.15 - 18

**Choir Carol:** Infant Holy - arr. David Willcocks

**Fourth Lesson:** Isaiah 9.2, 6 - 7

**1 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.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

**3 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 Lesson:** Isaiah 11.1-3a, 4a, 6-9

**Choir Carol:** A tender shoot - *Otto Goldschmidt*

**Sixth Lesson:** St Luke 1.26-35, 38

**Choir Carol:** Bogoroditse Dyevo (Ave Maria) – Rachmaninov

*God-bringing virgin, rejoice! Grace-filled Mary, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you  
have borne Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.*

**Seventh Lesson:** St Luke 2.1, 3 - 7

**1. 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 to-night.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born on Christmas day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**Choir Carol:** Prayer on Christmas Night - *Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn)*

**Eighth Lesson:** St Luke 2.8 - 16

*During the next hymn a collection will be taken for the work of this church and we relight our candles.*

**Offertory Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful

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:

*Chorus: 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:

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:

4. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:

*All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel*

**Ninth Lesson:** St John 1.1 - 14

**Processional Carol**

*We keep our candles alight as we process for our final carol around the Almshouses Christmas Tree.*

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.

2 Oh, that birth forever blessed  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face  
evermore and evermore.

3 This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.

4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
pow'rs, dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unending praises be,  
honor, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore.

## Final Hymn

1. 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.*

2. 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:

3. 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:

## Blessing and Dismissal

We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year

Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
And bring it right here  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year

We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
So bring it right here  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year

We all like our figgy pudding  
We all like our figgy pudding  
We all like our figgy pudding  
With all its good cheers  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year

*You are welcome to join us for mulled wine and mince pies in church.*

# Christmas Services at St Stephen's, Rochester Row

**Christmas Eve**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**5.00pm**  
**11.00pm**

**Children's Crib Service**  
**Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am**

**Family Eucharist**

**Boxing Day**  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am**

**on The Feast of St Stephen**  
**Festival Patronal Eucharist**

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