



**Stephen with St John
Westminster**
www.sswsj.org

*Service of Lessons
and Carols*
2023

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

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Carol: This is the Truth Sent From Above

arr. Vaughan William

Third Lesson: Genesis 22.15 - 18

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: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

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: Nativity Carol

John Rutter

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 heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

2 By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

3 O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

4 This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

5 Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.

6 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
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 2023 at St Stephen's, Rochester Row

Christmas Eve
24th December

5.00pm
11.00pm

Children's Crib Service
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
25th December

10.00am

Family Eucharist

Boxing Day
26th December

10.00am
3.00pm

on The Feast of St Stephen
Festival Patronal Eucharist
Patronal Tea@3

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