



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

*Service of Lessons  
and Carols  
2024*



St Stephen's Westminster



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***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**

*During the bidding prayer we shall light our advent wreath, singing the response:*

**Christmas is coming, the church is glad to sing  
And let your Advent candle brightly burn in a ring**

*Immediately after, any Christmas Baubles will be brought forward, after which the bidding prayer continues*

### **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

**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:** 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*

**Processional Carol**

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

**1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas Day  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray.**

*Refrain:*

**O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**2 From God our heav'nly Father  
a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same;  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name. [Refrain]**

**3 "Fear not," then said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior  
of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in Him  
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]**

**4 The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks afeeding,  
in tempest, storm, and wind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway,  
this blessed Babe to find. [Refrain]**

**5 Now to the Lord sing praises  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth deface. [Refrain]**

**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 invited to join us for mulled wine and mince pies in church.*



# Christmas Services

**Sunday 15th December**

**6pm St Stephen's Carol Service**

**Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve Services**

**5pm Children's Crib Service**

**11pm Midnight Mass**

**Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day Service**

**10am Festive Family Eucharist**

**Thursday 26th December - St Stephen's Day Service**

**10am St Stephen's Eucharist**

**St Stephen's Rochester Row**

 **St Stephen's Westminster**

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