

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: CAROL

- 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 Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb;
Veil'd 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.*
- 3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace;
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing between 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.*

Chaplain: BLESSING

English-speaking services will be held in The Little Church, Chemin du Temple (just up the road from the Co-op) over the Christmas period:

Friday 24 December	Christmas Midnight Communion	11.30pm
Saturday 25 December	Christmas Family Service	6.00pm
Sunday 26 December	Evening Service	6.00pm
Sunday 2 January	New Year Service	6.00pm

For more information, please 'phone the ESC Chaplain on 027 771 4701



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
23 DECEMBER 2010

Chaplain: INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate Christmas, we give thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son to be our Saviour; for the love of Christ in taking our human nature; for the humble birth in Bethlehem; and for the great rescue he has made possible for us and for all mankind.

ALL: CAROL

- 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.
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;
O come, let us adore him,
etc.
- 3. 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, etc.

Chaplain: OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate again the birth of Jesus, we pray that, like the angels we may sing his praise; like the shepherds, we may know his glory; and like the wise men, we may offer him our worship, and give him the love and loyalty of our hearts; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

CAROL

- 1. God rest you merry, Gentlemen!
Let nothing you dismay;
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we had gone astray,
O tidings of comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy,
- 2. From God, our heavenly 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,
O tidings of comfort and joy, etc.
- 3. Fear not then, said the angel
Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Saviour,
Of a pure Virgin bright:
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might,
O tidings of comfort and joy, etc.
- 4. 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 efface,
O tidings of comfort and joy, etc.

**SECOND READING Luke chapter 2 verses 1 to 15
Luke recounts the events of Jesus' birth**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

All:

CAROL

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
- 2. "Fear not", said he - for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind -
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind!
- 3. "To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
- 4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view display'd,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."
- 5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appear'd a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Address'd their joyful song:
- 6. "All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."

**THIRD READING John chapter 1 verses 1 to 14
John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.