

*“Let us go now, even unto Bethlehem
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe, lying in a manger.
Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture,
the tale of the loving purposes of God,
from the first days of our disobedience,
unto the glorious redemption brought us
by this Holy Child:
and let us make this place glad with our
carols of praise.”*

Welcome to our Carols by Candlelight this year. We bid a special welcome to those of you who are our visitors this evening. Our readings and carols recall the events surrounding the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With so much unrest in our world today, it is all the more important to hear and to receive the Good News of the hope and promise of God, who sent his Son into our world, to bring us peace and joy. May you and your loved ones know the peace and the joy that the Christ-Child brought to the world.

Hymn 177 - Once in Royal David's City

Solo

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.

Female Voices

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.

Male Voices

3. And through all his wondrous
childhood,
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly mother
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

All

5. 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.

All

6. 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.

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

First Reading: Genesis 3: 8-15

Hymn 174 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 tonight.

2. O morning stars, together
 proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the King,
 and peace to all on earth;
 for Christ is born of Mary;
 and gather'd all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels
 keep,
 their watch of wond'ring love.

3. How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 so God imparts to human hearts,
 the blessings of his heav'n.
 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 in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord, Emmanuel.

Second Reading: Genesis 22: 15-18

Hymn 182 - Silent Night, Holy Night

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,
 heavenly 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,
 radiance beams from thy holy face
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Third Reading: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7

Hymn 149 - Away in a Manger

1. Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head:
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay,
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Fourth Reading: St. Luke 1: 26-38

Hymn 187 - When The Crimson Sun Had Set

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|--|---|
| <p>1. When the crimson sun had set,
sinking 'neath the frosty plain,
on a bright and cold midnight
broke the glad angelic strain:</p> | <p>3. Hie they then with quick accord,
hasting to the manger-throne,
bending low with hearts aglow,
God of God the Babe they own:</p> |
| <p><i>Gloria in excelsis Deo!</i></p> <p>2. Shepherds, watching by their
flocks,
upward look with wond'ring gaze,
in the sky bright hosts espy,
filling all the heav'nly ways:</p> | <p>4. Joy with us, good Christians all,
Christ is come to set us free;
he was born on Christmas morn,
sing the glad nativity:</p> |

Fifth Reading: St. Matthew 1: 18-25

Hymn 172 - 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:

*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. Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our heart's oblations:

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

Sixth Reading: St. Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn 179 - See Amid The Winter's Snow

1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
sing through all Jerusalem:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

5. Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

6. Teach O teach us, holy Child,
by the face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee,
in thy sweet humility.

Seventh Reading: St. Luke 2: 8-16

Hymn 198 - The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did
say
was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay:
in fields where they lay keeping
their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so
deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They lookéd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them
far,
and to the earth it gave great
light,
and so it continued both day and
night:

3. And by the light of that same
star
three wise men came from country
far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it
went.

4. This star drew nigh to the
north-west,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus
lay:

5. Then entered in those wise men
three
most reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and
frankincense:

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

Eighth Reading: St. Matthew 2: 1-12

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

by John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry
on the way to Bethlehem,
far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
on the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
 'Dance and sing for joy that
 Christ the new-born King is
 come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
 cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
 on the way to Bethlehem,
 who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
 on the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
 'Dance and sing for joy that
 Christ the new-born King is come
 to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying
 cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
 on the way to Bethlehem,
 but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
 when I get to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,
 hovered o'er the manger
 where the babe was lying
 cradled in the arms of his mother Mary
 sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
 come with you to Bethlehem?
 Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle.
 Is it far to Bethlehem?

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
 'Dance and sing for joy that
 Christ the infant King is
 born this night in lowly stable yonder,
 born for you at Bethlehem.'*

Ninth Reading: The Christmas Gospel - St. John 1: 1-14

(Please remain standing)

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

During the singing of the next hymn, there will be a collection in aid of Protestant Aid.

Over the past number of years, there have been heavy demands on Protestant Aid with increased numbers of people seeking their help. Protestant Aid is a Protestant version of St Vincent de Paul; it does not differentiate between creed or ethnicity regarding those who it helps... although the name can be misleading. They are doing amazing work, helping families of all backgrounds and origins who are finding things tough. They are often 'invisible' coping with acute financial stress caused by mounting debts or redundancy, and family pressures with little or no State aid.

Hymn 159 - Good Christians All Rejoice

1. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
give ye heed to what we say;
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the stable now,
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door,
and all are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save:
calls you one, and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

The Collect and Blessing

Hymn 160 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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:

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 us 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 Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die;
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth:

You are warmly invited to Mulled Wine (non-alcoholic) and Mince
Pies in the Parish Centre after this service.

*We Wish You All a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas,
and a Peaceful New Year*

*In the interests of trying to keep all who come to our churches safe, please take away
this service sheet and any other items that you may have brought with you or used in
church this evening. Thank you.*

Stay well and stay safe.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 20th December 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 20th December 2023

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Thursday 21st December 2023

11.00 Ecumenical School Carol Service for Booterstown National School, Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School and St Mary's Boys' School in St Philip and St James' Church



Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December 2023 **NB Service Times and Venues**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas' Church

22.00 The First Holy Communion of Christmas in St Thomas' Church



Christmas Day – Monday 25th December 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Family Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Family Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

Wednesday 27th December 2023

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December 2023 – New Year's Eve **NB Service Times and Venues**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm
In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre
Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

Thank You

*to those who made Christingles,
and to those who decorated our
churches so beautifully for
Christmas!*

*And thank you to those who
helped make the Christmas Craic-
er a most enjoyable morning, and
to those who are preparing the
mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and
mince pies for this evening! It is
lovely to gather together and to
enjoy each other's company!*

Carol Singing

for

Dublin SIMON

Thursday 21st December 2023

4pm—6pm

Blackrock Village Shopping Centre
(the one with SuperValu)

*We are asking people to sign up to
sing and/or collect for 30 minutes or
1 hour... or however long they can.*

*Please email Gillian to let her when
and for how long you can be there!*

booterstownandmountmerrion@gmail.com



Thank you for your wonderful generosity in helping Santa!

***The Capuchin Day Centre and
The Alice Leahy Trust were
thrilled by the toys, food,
scarves, hats, gloves,
underwear, etc. that you gave
this Christmas.***



REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the electoral roll of the Parish and is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes.

If you are not on the Register, you are not entitled to vote on parish matters and are not able to hold any office in the parish or serve on the Select Vestry. Please contact the Churchwardens to be placed on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form and give it to a churchwarden.

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*

