

*“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

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.

### 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.

### 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.

## **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  
 radiant 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**

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

### Jesus Child

*by John Rutter*

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem,  
have you heard the story of the Je-sus child?  
How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?  
Mary was his virgin mother pure and mild.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters.  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.  
'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:  
listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men,  
sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night?  
Suddenly the angel tells them: 'Hurry to Bethlehem;  
go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters.  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.  
'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:  
listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,  
sleeping safe at Mary's knee,  
save my soul and bring me to paradise,  
let me join the angels singing glory to thee.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters.  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.  
'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:  
listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient,  
following the star that's shining over his head?  
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense  
kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed?

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters.  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.  
'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:  
listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child,  
sisters, come and welcome him, the new-born King;  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmas time;  
young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing.

*Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters.  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.*

*'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:  
listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

*(Please remain standing)*

### **Ninth Reading: The Christmas Gospel - St John 1: 1-14**

*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 St Philip and St James' 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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion  
 Service in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
 12.00 Booterstown National School Carol  
 Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
 8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St  
 James' Church  
 9.30 A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas'  
 Church  
 11.00 Christingle Service in St Philip and  
 St James' Church



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 -  
 Christmas Eve  
 22.00 The First Holy  
 Communion of Christmas in St  
 Thomas' Church



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
 December 2024 -  
 Christmas Day  
**8.30 Holy Communion in St  
 Philip and St James'  
 Church**  
**9.30 Holy Communion in St  
 Thomas' Church**  
**11.00 Holy Communion in  
 St Philip and St James'  
 Church**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
 8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St  
 James' Church  
 10.30 United Service of the Word in St  
 Thomas' Church

*No Midweek Service on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
 January 2025*

## 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](mailto:irene.reid1052@gmail.com)

## Thank You

*to those who decorated our  
churches so beautifully for  
Christmas!*

*And thank you 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 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**5pm—7pm**

**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!*



## 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*

