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# The Church of the Holy Ghost **TRADITIONAL READINGS** and **CAROLS for CHRISTMAS** **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm**

Officiant and Chaplain: the Revd. Robert Morley

**Lecture e Canti di Natale** - in collaborazione con il coro e l'orchestra Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica

*The PROCESSIONAL CAROL is sung*

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| <p>1 (solo) ONCE IN ROYAL David's city<br/>stood a lowly cattle shed,<br/>where a mother laid her baby<br/>in a manger for his bed:<br/>Mary was that mother mild,<br/>Jesus Christ her little child.</p> <p>2 He came down to earth from heaven<br/>who is God and Lord of all,<br/>and his shelter was a stable,<br/>and his cradle was a stall;<br/>with the poor and mean and lowly<br/>lived on earth our Saviour holy.</p> | <p>3 And our eyes at last shall see Him,<br/>through His own redeeming love;<br/>for that Child so dear and gentle<br/>is our Lord in Heaven above;<br/>and He leads His children on<br/>to the place where He is gone.</p> <p>4 Not in that poor lowly stable,<br/>with the oxen standing by,<br/>we shall see Him, but in heaven,<br/>set at God's right hand on high;<br/>when like stars His children crowned<br/>all in white shall wait around.</p> |
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*C. F. Alexander*

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

*The Chaplain welcomes worshippers and introduces the service ending with these words:*

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** *Genesis 3. 8-15* **God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head** *Read by Peter Twinn (Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica)*

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Isaac Watts*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Genesis 22:15-18 **God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.** Read by Alessia Petino (Church member)

**GGMA IN DULCI JUBILO** ("In sweet rejoicing" traditional carol sung by the Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7 **The Messiah's birth and kingdom are foretold.**  
Read by Renzo Guaita, (Internations Genoa)

- 1 (choir) In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,

- a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;  
enough for him whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.
- 4 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.
- 5 What can I give him, poor as I am?  
if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

*Rossetti Holst*

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading:** Micah 5. 2-4 **The glory of little Bethlehem is foretold.**  
Read by Denise Dardani (HM Honorary British Consul)

- 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 For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

- 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 in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

*Phillips Brooks*

**5<sup>th</sup> Lesson:** Luke 1.26-38 **The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin.**  
Read by James Reynolds (Università degli Studi, Genova)

- 1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
- 2 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,

thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
say

'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!  
*Traditional Basque, Tr Baring-Gould*

**6<sup>th</sup> Lesson:** Luke 2. 1-7 **St. Luke tells of the Birth of Jesus.**  
*Read by Jutta Sperba (Lutheran Pastor)*

**GAUDETE, GAUDETE! CHRISTUS EST NATUS**

*("Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born" medieval song of praise sung by the Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica)*

**7<sup>th</sup> Lesson:** Luke 2:8-16 **The shepherds go to the manger.** *Read by Kenjiro Semini (Church member)*

1. The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown.

*[Refrain:]*

*The rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.*

2. The holly bears a prickly,  
as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ

on Christmas day in the morn. *[Refrain]*

3. The holly bears a bark,  
as bitter as any gall,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
for to redeem us all. *[Refrain]*

4. The holly and the ivy,  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown. *[Refrain]*  
*Traditional*

*During this carol a Collection will be taken in aid of upkeep of the Church of the Holy Ghost and the Church's Christmas charity, Emergenza Freddo (Caritas).*

**8<sup>th</sup> Lesson:** Matthew 2.1-12 **The wise men are led by the star to Jesus**  
*Read by Mary Wellington (Churchwarden)*

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*[Refrain:]*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

3. Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most high. *[Refrain]*

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
earth to heav'n replies. *[Refrain]*  
*Hopkins*

Please **remain standing** for the reading of the

**9<sup>th</sup> Lesson:** John 1.1-14 **St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.**

*Read by the Chaplain, the Revd. Robert Morley*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;

with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

[Refrain:]

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

- 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 the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth. [Refrain]

*C. Wesley and G. Whitefield,*

*Mendelssohn*

## THE COLLECT

### EST IST EIN ROSEN SPRUNGEN

*(Lo, how a rose e'er blooming sung by the Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica)*

### PRAYER AND BLESSING

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
Light has sprung up for the righteous  
Glory to God in the highest

*All he has come to his people and set them free.  
All and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.  
All and peace to his people on earth.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *All Amen.*

1. *Adeste fideles, Laeti triumphantes;  
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;  
Natum videte, Regem Angelorum:  
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus,  
Venite adoremus Dominum!*
2. *En grege relicto humiles ad cunas  
Vocati pastores adproperant  
Et nos ovantes gradu festinemus  
Venite adoremus, ...*
3. *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!*

4. *God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore him, ...*

5. *Cantet nunc hymnos Chorus angelorum,  
Cantet nunc aula caelestium:  
Gloria, gloria, In excelsis Deo!  
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus,  
Venite adoremus Dominum!*

*English text: Frederick Oakley*

*GGMA Recessional music played by the Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica Orchestra.*

**All are invited to stay and share traditional seasonal refreshments.**

Our warmest thanks to the SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS of the GRUPPO GENOVESE DI MUSICA ANTICA under their MUSICAL DIRECTOR SILVIA MANFREDI

**Next services here are:**

**Wednesday 17th December 12:30pm midweek Eucharist**

**Sunday 21st December 10:30am Service of Eucharist** (lighting of the Advent candles)

**Wednesday 24th December 5.30pm Crib Service** (Baby Jesus is laid in the Manger)

**Thursday 25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist**



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