



Welcome – Archdeacon Trevor Harrison

Carol: *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.

[all]

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.

3. For he is our childhood's pattern, 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.

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.

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;
When like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

Revd Ailsa Claridge I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua, te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu.

Amine. (In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.)

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care
and delight to hear again the message of the
angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto
Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to
pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore 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.



But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city of New Plymouth and this diocese of Taranaki and Waikato

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

1ST LESSON, READ BY CORINNE PRYCE-BAXTER, BISHOP'S ACTION FOUNDATION :

"THE FALL." GENESIS 3

"They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' "

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *Adam lay ybounden* - John Ireland (1879-1962)

2ND LESSON, READ BY JENNY GODDARD - CATHEDRAL PROJECT DESIGN MANAGER

“GOD’S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM.” GENESIS 22.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.



**1. Above the peaks the angels sing,
across the snow their voices ring,
and musterers come riding down,
to find the little country town
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.**

**2. Across the hills the rata spread
their signal fires of smokey red;
by golden sands and whit’ning shell
pohutukawa flames to tell
that Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.**

**3. Beneath a Southern Cross of light,
led by the Pointers, through the night
three travellers are hast’ning home
from distant lands to find their own;
for Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.**

**4. We too would sing that ancient song
and join the busy, hurrying throng,
and take the road once more to find
that hallowed place in heart and mind
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.**

3RD LESSON, READ BY RICHARD HANDLEY - NP DISTRICT COUNCILLOR & VESTRY MEMBER

“THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOUR.” ISAIAH 9.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir : *Lo, how a rose e’er blooming* - Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

“THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN.” ISAIAH 11.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

**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 men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.**

**3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
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.**

5TH LESSON, READ BY CATH MCVEY - SUNDAY FAMILY WORKER:

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE VIRGIN MARY. ST LUKE 1

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him

Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then



Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *The Angel Gabriel* – Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)



6TH LESSON, READ BY ELLA MCVEY - YOUNG PERSON:

ST LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS. ST LUKE 2

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *The Infant King* - arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

The Sermon. - Archdeacon Trevor

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

7TH LESSON, READ BY REVD. AILSA CLARIDGE - PASTORAL MINISTER:

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER. ST LUKE 2

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *Love came down at Christmas* - Alfred Ernest Floyd (1877-1974)

8TH LESSON, READ BY REVD. MELE PRESCOTT - YOUTH ENABLER:

"THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS." MATTHEW 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: *"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."*'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.



When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir : *Star Carol* - John Rutter (b. 1945)

During this carol, a collection will be taken up for the work of this Cathedral in our community. Thank you for your support.

**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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled 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 newborn 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 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 newborn King.**

9TH LESSON, READ BY : ARCHBISHOP PHILIP RICHARDSON, BISHOP OF TARANAKI AND WAIKATO
ST JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION. ST JOHN 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

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.

*[Refrain] O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord.*

please remain standing as we pray

2. God of God,
 Light of Light,
 Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's
 womb; Very God,
 begotten, not created.

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
 'Glory to God in the highest'.

Priest There is dignity here - we will exalt it There is courage here - we will support it
 There is humanity here - we will enjoy it
 There is a universe in every child - we will share in it
 There is a voice calling through the chaos of our times
 There is a Spirit moving across the waters of our world
 There is movement, a light, a promise of hope.
 And we have worshipped you in word and in song this night.
 May those who have ears to hear, hear May those who have eyes to see, see
 Behold we bring you good tidings of great joy. Emmanuel - God with us

All **Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly festival of the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Grant that we, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, may see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen**

Priest May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Postlude: Toccata on "Joy to the world" - Martin Setchell (b. 1949)

DO JOIN US :

Saturday 22nd	5pm	Picnic Carols on the Vicarage Lawn
Christmas Eve:	4pm	Children's Christmas Service
	11pm	Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:	8am	Holy Communion.
	10am	Christmas Family Eucharist



"Give something back" our annual Boxing Day gift giving event. Hatherly Hall 10am-3pm, Dec 26th. Make a difference in our community by bringing in your "unwanted" gifts or perhaps buying something special to be given to those in need over the Christmas season. Going away over Christmas? No worries - drop off your gift before you leave at the Cathedral Office. As a "Thank You" - everyone who brings in a gift on Boxing Day receives a free Chaos Cafe Coffee.