

The Parish Church of St Paul  
Grange over Sands



**A FESTIVAL OF  
CAROLS AND READINGS  
BY CANDLELIGHT**

Sunday 19th December 2021  
4.00 pm



*Welcome to this service as we continue our spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. This afternoon we hear through readings from Holy Scripture the great story of God's love and together sing our carols of praise to welcome the Lord who comes as Emmanuel.*

*The service will proceed unannounced, and everyone is warmly invited to stand and join together in the singing of the congregational carols.*

*We STAND*

## CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*All*    **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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

*Words: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895)  
Tune: 'Irby' by H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)*

*We remain STANDING for the Bidding Prayer*

## **THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Brothers and sisters, welcome to this church of St Paul's, as we come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols. As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

For the Church, that inspired and guided by God it may bring the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and share the good news of God's love to a needy world.

For the world, that all its peoples may accept our shared responsibility for its future, and be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for justice, freedom and peace in every land.

For all in particular need: those who are sick, anxious, lonely or bereaved, those without home or family, friends or hope – that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, or have no one to pray for them, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

*All*    **Our Father, who art in heaven**  
          **hallowed by 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.**

Lord God, in the birth of Jesus  
you come in solidarity with all that is humble and poor.  
May this mystery save us  
from illusions of grandeur and power,  
and lead us to love in simplicity of heart,  
like Jesus our Saviour.

*All*    **Amen**

*We SIT*

### **FIRST READING**

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2a-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold*

Read by Sue Fleetwood, representing the PCC

### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

*All*    **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 heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**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.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;**

And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

And 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.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*Words: Edmund H. Sears (1849)*

*English Traditional Melody (adapted by Arthur Sullivan)*

*We SIT*

## **SECOND READING**

The Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38

*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary*

Read by Pauline Ramsbottom, representing The Fell Church

*We remain sitting*

**CAROL (CHOIR ONLY)** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

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!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be.  
All generations laud and honour thee.  
Thy name shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady” Gloria!

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!

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!

### **THIRD READING**

The Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-7

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

Read by Nigel Higginson, representing the congregation

### **CAROL (CHOIR ONLY)** In Bethlehem town - Roger Fiske

*(based on the French Carol; En Bethléem)*

To Bethlehem town, came Joseph and Mary,  
Begged shelter in vain. Although they were weary,  
replies did not vary, “No room at the Inn”.

Good Joseph then gazed on Mary his dearest;  
“What shall we do now, what place would be nearest,  
to grant us a bed?” he tenderly said.

“Come, let us walk on, not fear any danger;  
We’ll find nothing here.” And soon in a manger  
she cradled her son, God’s holiest one.

Bring gifts to him now, ye shepherds adore him,  
this baby’s your King. All bowing before him  
the angels shall sing to our new-born King.

*We STAND*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*All* 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 to-night.

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 wondering love.

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in:  
be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

*Tune: 'Forest Green' - English Traditional - harm. R. Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)*



*We SIT*

#### FOURTH READING

The Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 2, verses 8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger*

Read by Millie Brewster

*We STAND*

#### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*All* While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not!’, said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

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:

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.’

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Tune: ‘Winchester Old’ - Melody from T. Este (Psalms, 1592)*

*We SIT*

**CAROL** The Virgin's slumber-song - Max Reger

*Sung in German by Avelina Wright*

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child.  
While amid the tree-tops sighs the breeze so warm and mild  
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough;  
Ah! Baby, sleep, dear one, Slumber now!

Happy is your laughter, holy is your silent rest,  
Lay your head in slumber fondly on your mother's breast!  
Ah! Baby, sleep, dear one, Slumber now!

### **FIFTH READING**

The Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-12

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

Read by Jane Dutton, Worship Committee

*We STAND*

### **CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

*All* 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.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

*Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshipping God on high.

*Refrain*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*Refrain*

Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

*Words & Tune: John Henry Hopkins Jr (1820-1891)*

*We remain STANDING for the Gospel reading*

**SIXTH READING**

The Gospel according to Saint John, chapter 1, verses 1-14

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

Read by Rev'd Jonathan Brewster

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

*All* 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.*

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 ...*

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 ...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him ...*

*Words: Latin (18th Century) - tr. F. Oakeley (1802-1880)*

*Tune: 'Adeste Fideles' by J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786)*

*We SIT for the prayers*

Let us give glory to God on high,  
who from his fullness have received grace upon grace.

For the holy Church of God throughout the world,  
that with one heart we may rejoice in the Word made flesh,  
Let us pray to the Lord

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

For good will in the hearts of all;  
and on earth, peace:  
let us pray to the Lord

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the outcast and the homeless;  
for the helpless, the lonely and the unloved:  
let us pray to the Lord

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have gone before us,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh:  
let us pray to the Lord

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

With the blessed Virgin Mary,  
and all the host of heaven,  
let our voices rise to praise God's glory:

*All* Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

*We STAND*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*All* 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 newborn King.*

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.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace:  
hail, the Son 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.*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

*Tune: 'Mendelssohn' - adapted from F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) by W. H. Cummings (1855)*

## THE BLESSING

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
*All* **he has come to his people and set them free.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous  
*All* **and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**

Glory to God in the highest  
*All* **and peace to his people on earth.**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen**

*We SIT for the concluding organ voluntary*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*'In dulci jubilo' (BWV 729) - Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Following the concluding organ voluntary,  
please do stay behind for seasonal refreshments!*

*Please be assured of our prayers for you and yours  
this Christmastime that it may be filled  
with every blessing and joy.*

*All are very welcome to join us for our other Christmas services in  
the coming days, as we continue to celebrate the joyous story of the  
Nativity, and proclaim in this parish, with the Church throughout  
the world, the timeless story of God's love for us all.*

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021**

**CHRISTMAS EVE - Friday 24th DECEMBER**

**6.30 pm - Christingle Service & Blessing of the Crib**

*A joyful, interactive service for all the family, where we hear the Christmas story and prepare to  
celebrate it once more. Make sure you arrive early to get a seat!*

**CHRISTMAS DAY - Saturday 25th DECEMBER**

**10.00 am - Parish Communion for Christmas Morning**

*Come and celebrate as the church family the joy of Christmas as we rejoice together in the birth of  
the Lord Jesus.*

**SUNDAY 26th DECEMBER**

**9.30 am - Eucharist at The Fell Church**

**(NO SERVICE AT ST PAUL'S)**

*\*ADVANCE NOTICE\**

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY 2020**

**11.00 am - Holy Communion for the Feast of the Conversion of St  
Paul**

*The congregations and parishes of St Paul's Grange-over-Sands and The Fell Church gather in  
Grange for our Patronal Festival - followed by our Patronal lunch.*

Acknowledgements

*Excerpts from the Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of  
England (2000)  
and Common Worship: Times and Seasons (2006).*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND