

Diocese of Manchester

A Digital Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

We hope you enjoy this service - please join in with congregational carols, and sing as loudly as you like!

Congregational carol: Once in Royal David City

V1: Choir Solo

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;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Welcome and Bidding Prayer: Bishop David Walker

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

First Reading: Genesis 3.8-14 – The Fall

Read by Rev Anne Edwards, Hospital Chaplain

Carol: This is the Truth Sent From Above - St Mary's Church Choir, Prestwich

Second Reading: Genesis 22.15-18 – The promise to Abraham

Read by the many voices of St Edmund's Whalley Range & St James, Moss Side

Carol: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day - Bury Parish Church Choir

Third reading: Isaiah 9.2,6,7 – The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

Read by Rev Aaron Jackman, Diocese of Manchester Race, Inequality and Justice Group

Carol: Hark the Herald - Dobcross Silver Band, Church of England in Saddleworth

Fourth Reading: Micah 5.2-4 – The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

Read by Students from Bury Church CE High School

Carol: See Amid the Winter's Snow - The Choir of St Ann's Church, Manchester

Congregational carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Fifth Reading: Luke 1.26-38 – The Annunciation to Mary

Read by Zippy Kuria, Lunch Club Volunteer, St James Higher
Broughton

Carol: Don't Be Afraid - Edenfield CE Primary School

Sixth Reading: Matthew 1.18-23 – The birth of Emmanuel

Read by Martin Ware, Volunteer with GTM Homeless Support

Congregational carol: Silent Night

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

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

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

Seventh Reading: Luke 2.8-16 – The shepherds go to the manger

Read by Dr Sara Timms - Member of St Philips, Chapel Street

Carol: O Holy Night - Rev Chris Sayburn, All Saints, Salford.

Address: Bishop Mark Ashcroft

Carol: What Child is This - Singers from the Turton Moorland Team

Eighth Reading: Matthew 2.1-11 – The magi are led by the star to Jesus

Read by Matt Carson - Eco Champion, Christ Church Friezland

Carol: On a Starry Night - Andy Penzak and Elaine De Costa, St Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme

Prayers: #PrayActually and Bishop Mark Davies

Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter - Bury Parish Church Choir

Ninth Reading: John 1.1-14 – The Incarnation of the Word of God

Read by Dean Rogers Govender - Manchester Cathedral

Congregational carol: O Come All ye Faithful

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
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Child for us sinners, Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

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

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord!

Blessing: Bishop David Walker

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 be with you and with those you
love, this Christmas time.

Amen.

Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Manchester