

The Parish Church of St. Paul, Wokingham



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 19th December
2021 at 6.15pm

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.

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 round,
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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Welcome and Bidding Prayer, by the Rector

Lesson 1 *Genesis 3 God announces his sentence on
Adam and Eve for their disobedience.*

Choir *Of the Father's heart begotten
(arr. David Willcocks, 1919-2015)*

Lesson 2 *Genesis 22 God promises Abraham that his
offspring will be as numerous as the stars in the sky.*

Choir Myn Lyking
 (Richard Runciman Terry, 1864-1938)
I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing
She lulled a lyttel childe, a swete Lording.
Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweetling.
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.

Lesson 3 Isaiah 9
 The birth of God's Messiah is foretold.

Choir A babe is born
 (Johann Hermann Schein, 1586-1630)

Lesson 4 Isaiah 11
 The promise of Christ's peace for the world.

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 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!

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Lesson 5

St. Luke 1

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir What sweeter music
 (John Rutter, b.1945)
What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
That sees December turned to May.

Lesson 6 St. Matthew 1
 St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol While Shepherds watched their flocks by night

**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 on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”**

Nahum Tate (1657-1715)

Choir Ding dong merrily on high
(arr. Mack Willberg, b.1965)

Lesson 7 St. Luke 2 *The shepherds go to the manger.*

Choir My Lord has come
(Will Todd, b.1970)
Shepherds, called by angels,
called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
Sages, searching for stars,
searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come.
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and
angels; no place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Lesson 8 St. Matthew 2
The wise men are led to Bethlehem by a star.

Choir *Sir Christemas* (William Mathias, 1934-1992)
"Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell."
"Who is there that singeth so nowell, nowell, nowell?"
"I am here, Sir Christëmas."
"Welcome, my lord Sir Christëmas,
Welcome to us all, both more and less, Come near, nowell."
"*Dieus wous garde, bewe sieurs, tidings I you bring:*
A maid hath borne a child full ying,
The which causeth (you) for to sing, Nowell.
"Christ is now born of a pure maid,
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Whereof sing we alle at a brayde, Nowell.

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 is born from 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!**

**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!**

**trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)
& William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917)**

Lesson 9 *St. John 1 St. John unfolds the great mystery*
[Please stand] *of the incarnation.*

Choir *On Christmas Night*
 (James Burton, b. 1974)

The Prayers

Let us humbly offer our prayers and praises
to the throne of heaven,
in the words which Christ himself taught us:
**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 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.**

The Christmas Blessing – *we stand and bow our heads.*

Organ Voluntary *Carillon-Sortie*, by Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

**Most services at St Paul's and Woosehill
are Livestreamed for those
who can't get to Church**





Christmas Services 2021

St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Tuesday 21st December

6.15pm Pure Christmas
(a short service for those who need space and stillness at Christmas)

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service at St Paul's Junior School Playground
5.00pm Crib Service at St Paul's Junior School Playground
11.00pm Midnight Mass *(which will also be Livestreamed)*

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am BCP said Mass
9.30am All Together Mass to greet the Saviour's birth

The Community Church of St Nicholas, Emmbrook Village Hall

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

9.00pm First Mass of Christmas
(Please note that there is no Christmas morning service at St Nicholas' Church)

Woosehill Church

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm The Christmas Story (Livestream only)

Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Service

Sunday Services in the Parish

There are a wide range of events during the week in our
three churches for people of all ages- see our websites:

www.spauls.org.uk
www.woosehillchurch.org