



St James's
PICCADILLY



Carols for Christmas Eve

**Sunday 24th December
2023 at 4pm**

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Before the service, Kaitlin Wild will play music for trumpet.

Our choir is formed from the Singing Scholars at St James's.

CAROL

[Tune: Irby; Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)]

**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 heav'n 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;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Revd Lucy Winkett

FIRST READING

Luke 2.1-7

CHOIR

Ding Dong Merrily On High

arr. Charles Wood

CAROL

[Tune: Mendelssohn; Descant by David Willcocks;
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) et al.]

**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 th'angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

Refrain:

***Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new born King.***

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,**

offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth:

SECOND READING

Luke 2.8-15

CHOIR

Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FOR ALL

The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

CAROL

[Tune: Winchester Old; Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)]

**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 humankind.

'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 earth
begin and never cease.'

THIRD READING

Matthew 2.1-11

CHOIR

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

*During the final two carols, a collection will be taken for St James's **Christmas for All** appeal. An opportunity for cash or tap donations will be passed around the congregation. £5, £10, £15 or more will make a huge difference to the work St James's does with people who need a listening ear, hot food or clothing at this time of year and will support music and arts education programmes too. Please also use the QR code on page 9.*

CAROL

[Tune: Noel; Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)]

**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 all,
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 heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring 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 warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise of mortal strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

PRAYERS

The Revd Lucy Winkett

CHOIR

Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day

words: trad; music: John Gardner

CAROL

[Tune: Adeste fideles; Words: John Francis Wade (1710-1786)]

**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.*

**God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:**

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:**

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the Magi,
the courage of Mary and Joseph
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God almighty;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you now and always.
Amen.



Together, this Christmas, we can make a real difference in the lives of people who are struggling. St James's Piccadilly and The Passage, a leading homelessness charity in Westminster, have joined forces to bring warmth, hope, and comfort to those experiencing homelessness in our community. Your support will provide shelter, hot meals and vital services during this cold season.

Please, today as you read this, open your hearts and donate to our Christmas appeal. Every single gift, large or small, makes a real difference to the lives of those experiencing homelessness across the festive season.

Your gift of £5 could directly provide a hot meal to someone experiencing homelessness, served in the church itself to anyone who needs it. Your gift of £50 will help provide free counselling, warm clothes, advice and support.

Ways to donate:

Text ALL followed by your donation amount to 70490 to give that amount (e.g. ALL 10 to donate £10). Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

Use one of the contactless giving devices located in the church. You may also see these in local shops and offices: please don't feel as if you can give only once....!

Visit the **Christmas for All** page on our website using this QR code:





Midnight Mass

This evening - Sunday 24th December at 11.30pm

Join the solemn and beautiful Christmas mass with carols. The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine will be celebrating and The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease will be preaching. This service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Christmas Day Eucharist

Monday 25th December at 11am

Join us for our Christmas Day Eucharist with carols, followed by lunch in the church. The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine will be celebrating and The Revd Lucy Winkett will be preaching.

Christmas Day Lunch

Monday 25th December at 1pm

On Christmas Day after the Eucharist, we welcome everyone to a community lunch in the church. There will be turkey and vegetarian options, served with all the trimmings. No need to book, just turn up!



Christmas lunch costs £8-£10 per head (for 100-120 guests).

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the lunch, that would be wonderful and deeply appreciated.

Donations may be made online at www.sjp.org.uk/giving or with cash or contactless payment in church, and if you would like to ask any questions or let us know about your donation, please email associaterector@sjp.org.uk



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