



St James's
PICCADILLY



Carols for Christmas Eve

**Tuesday 24th December
2024 at 4pm**

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church, Piccadilly!

If you have children with you, please pick up a celebration bag as you come in.

Since 1684, Londoners and visitors have come to this holy place to celebrate Christmas. We warmly welcome you to this church to hear the story of the birth of Jesus, and to celebrate the universal themes of light in the darkness, and of hope in our hurting world. In today's city, we celebrate diversity and make no assumptions about your background or beliefs.

You are also warmly invited to support St James's work with people who are going through a really hard time this season. The meaning of Christmas is love, divine and human, for the whole world. St James's Church offers food, clothing and a listening ear every day to people who need it most. We also work together to build a strong and diverse, inclusive community in a fragmented and often fractious society.

We do this through our church services, our projects with people going through homelessness and the asylum system, and our year-round music and visual arts programme.

You can help build this community together at Christmas and beyond. There are opportunities to volunteer, to learn more about St James's, and to donate to support our work. When the collection plate comes round, or at the tap donation points in the church, please be as generous as you can.

We are here at Christmas to celebrate what unites us, which is always so much more than what divides us. And so we hope you have a wonderful time filled with music, joy, and, above all, love. ***Happy Christmas from everyone at St James's!***

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

Music before the service played by Tobias Pringle (trumpet) and Michael Haslam (organ).

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

Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks

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

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FOR ALL

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

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

How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

arr. Harry Knights

PRAYERS

The Revd Lucy Winkett

CHOIR

Sir Christèmas

William Mathias

*During the final two carols, a collection will be taken for St James's **Christmas for All** appeal.*

Opportunity for cash or tap donations will be passed around the audience. £10, £20 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 10.

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.

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.



Let's make Christmas special for all

Since this church was built in 1684, generations of Londoners and visitors have gathered to celebrate Christmas here. We often use words like 'home' and 'family' when we talk about Christmas, as people gather to celebrate with love and joy.

For many, this season is not a joyful or an easy time. For many, homelessness or heartbreak make Christmas difficult to celebrate.

St James's supports thousands of people every year, providing warmth and offering comfort to those who need it most. Most importantly, we welcome all into the community at St James's. We invite everyone to support the work of St James's this Christmas alongside people of all faiths and none. Your donation, whatever you can afford, will help us bring joy and hope into every heart this winter, together.

Ways to donate:

Using your phone, text the word ALL£10 to the number **70490**

Tap your card on a contactless giving device located in the church.

Visit our website at:

www.sjp.org.uk/christmas

or scan this code QR code.



Christmas Day Lunch

Wednesday 25th December at 1pm in the church

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.

You can do this 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



Christmas 2024 at St James's Church

Midnight Mass

Tuesday 24th Dec at 11.30pm

All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist with carols. This atmospheric service with choir and candlelight welcomes the infant Christ into the world.

It is a time to rejoice together in the true meaning of Christmas, offering love, hope, and peace to all.

This service will be streamed live on our YouTube channel at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day Eucharist

Wednesday 25th Dec at 11am

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with choral music and carols. All are welcome to join our Christmas lunch with all the trimmings after the service.

This service will be streamed live on our YouTube channel at 11am.

YouTube @stjameschurchpiccadilly

