



St James's
PICCADILLY

Carols for All

7th, 14th, 18th, 20th
& 21st December
2024 at 1.10pm



Welcome to St James's Church, Piccadilly!

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. We invite you to join in the carols, and also to have some fun with the contemporary songs at the end!

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 doesn't just offer 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 AND INTRODUCTION

CAROL

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:

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

CHOIR

Sussex Carol by David Willcocks

READING

Luke 2.1-7



CAROL

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 all the earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love;

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:



**O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

READING

Luke 2.8-20

CAROL

**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, in glory crowned.**



CHOIR

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day by John Gardner

READING

CAROL

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 minds;
"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.

Choir only:

The heav'nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-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 world be peace,



goodwill henceforth from heav'n to earth
begin and never cease."

THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

CAROL

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 Son 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.

CLOSING WORDS AND BLESSING

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE MEDLEY FOR ALL TO JOIN IN

It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the most wonderful time of the year,
with the kids jingle-belling
and everyone telling you 'be of good cheer';
it's the most wonderful time of the year.

It's the hap-happiest season of all,
with those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings
when friends come to call;
it's the hap-happiest season of all.

There'll be parties for hosting,
marshmallows for toasting,
and carolling out in the snow.
There'll be scary ghost stories
and tales of the glories of
Christmases long ago, long ago.

It's the most wonderful time of the year,
with kids jingle-belling
and everyone telling you "be of good cheer";
it's the most wonderful time of the year.



Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
let your heart be light
from now on, our troubles will be out of sight

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
make the Yuletide gay
from now on, our troubles will be miles away

Here we are as in olden days
happy golden days of yore
faithful friends who are dear to us
gather near to us once more

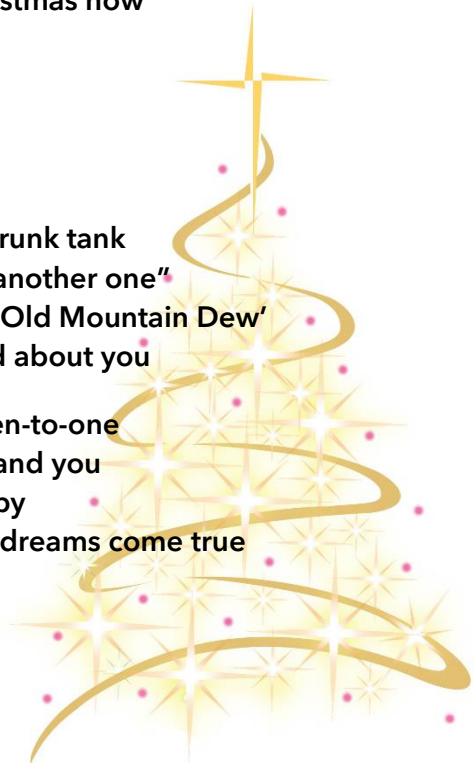
Through the years, we all will be together
if the fates allow
hang a shining star upon the highest bough
and have yourself a merry little Christmas now

Fairytale of New York

[lower voices]

It was Christmas Eve, babe, in the drunk tank
an old man said to me, "Won't see another one"
and then he sang a song, 'The Rare Old Mountain Dew'
I turned my face away and dreamed about you

Got on a lucky one, came in eighteen-to-one
I've got a feeling this year's for me and you
so, Happy Christmas, I love you, baby
I can see a better time when all our dreams come true



[higher voices]

**They've got cars big as bars, they've got rivers of gold
but the wind goes right through you, it's no place for the old
when you first took my hand on a cold Christmas Eve
you promised me Broadway was waiting for me**

[Al]

**You were handsome,
You were pretty, queen of New York City
when the band finished playing, they howled out for more
Sinatra was swinging,
all the drunks, they were singing
we kissed on a corner, then danced through the night**

**The boys of the NYPD choir
were singing, "Galway Bay"
and the bells were ringing out
for Christmas day**

All I want for Christmas is you

**I don't want a lot for Christmas
there is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking
there upon the fireplace
Santa Claus won't make me happy
with a toy on Christmas Day
I just want you for my own
more than you could ever know
make my wish come true
all I want for Christmas is you
you, baby**



All the lights are shining
so brightly everywhere
and the sound of children's laughter fills the air
and everyone is singing
I hear those sleigh bells ringing
Santa, won't you bring me the one I really need?
won't you please bring my baby to me?

Oh, I don't want a lot for Christmas
this is all I'm asking for
I just wanna see my baby
standing right outside my door

I just want you for my own
more than you could ever know
make my wish come true
all I want for Christmas is _____ you

Ooh baby,
all I want for Christmas is you, baby
all I want for Christmas is you, baby, you!

*A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year from everyone at St James's
Piccadilly!*

www.sjp.org.uk





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.

