

Nine Lessons & Carols

**Sunday 21 December
6pm**



The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

stpeter.org.nz

EMMANUEL
GODDE
IS
WITH US

Nine Lessons and Carols

Preludes

Processional Hymn: Once in royal David's city

(please stand / e tū tātou)

— 1 — Solo

*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.*

— 2 —

*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.*

— 3 —

*And through all his wondrous
childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.*

— 4 —

*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.*

— 5 —

*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.*

— 6 —

*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.*

C F Alexander

— 1 —

Welcome

The Bidding Prayer (*please be seated / e noho*)

E te whānau a te Karaiti, Nau Mai Haere Mai. Welcome. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent, we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith. Let us pray:

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

And, let us say together the prayer which Christ himself taught us:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now
and for ever. Amen.**

Let us all go together to Bethlehem and see this thing that Lord has made known to us...

Luke 2:15

First Lesson: Kitty Storey - Choir

Genesis 3: 8-14 - The Fall

(please sit for the readings / e noho ki te whakarongo ki ngā pānuitanga)

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.’

Choir: The blessed Son of God

– Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Second Lesson: Russell McQuoid - HIMS (Men's Group)

Genesis 22: 15-18 – The promise to Abraham

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Carol: Angels, from the realms of glory (please stand / e tū tātou)

— 1 —

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*come and worship,
Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

— 2 —

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

come and worship...

— 3 —

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

come and worship...

— 4 —

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

come and worship...

— 5 —

Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
ev'ry knee shall then bow down:

come and worship...

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Third Lesson: Sara Young - WACRA (Seismic Fundraising) Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 – The prophesy of the Messiah's birth

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Choir: All this time – William Walton (1902-1983)

Fourth Lesson: Hon Tim Macindoe - Mayor Micah 5:2-4 - The prophecy of the kingdom of peace

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem (please stand / e tū tātou)

— 1 —

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.

— 2 —

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 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.

Bishop Phillips Brooks

Choir: In dulci jubilo - Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Fifth Lesson: Sam Edwards - Cathedral Singers

Luke 1: 26-38 – The Annunciation

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Carol: The angel Gabriel (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady,'
Gloria!

'For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favour'd lady,'
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favour'd lady,
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favour'd lady,'
Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Sixth Lesson: Debra Stan-Barton - LOFT

Matthew 1:18-23 – The birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Choir: There is no rose - Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Seventh Lesson: Sue Allen - Bellringers

Luke 2:8-16 – The shepherds go to the manger

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol: Away in a manger (please stand / e tū tātou)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anon

Eighth Lesson: Pam McAdam - Social Club

Matthew 2:1-11 – The magi are led by the star

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Choir: Bethlehem down – Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Ninth Lesson: Father Ben Ong - Clergy

John 1:1-14 – The Incarnation of the Word of God (please stand / e tū tātou)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all

people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Choir: O magnum mysterium – Tomas de Victoria (1548-1611)

*O great mystery, o admirable sacrament,
that the animals should see the Lord
lying in a manger.*

*O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Jesus Christ.
Alleluia*

Carol: O come all ye faithful (please stand / e tū tātou)

*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*

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

O come

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

O come ...

Tr. F Oakeley, W Brooke et al.

Prayers:

(please be seated or kneel / e noho, e tūturi rānei tātou)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Bidding: Holy God

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

The Blessing

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, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life,
be upon you and remain with you, with those whom you love,
and with those whom you struggle to love, this night and always.

Amen

Carol: Hark! The herald-angels sing

— 1 —

Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the newborn 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.'

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

— 2 —

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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

— 3 —

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 them second birth.

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

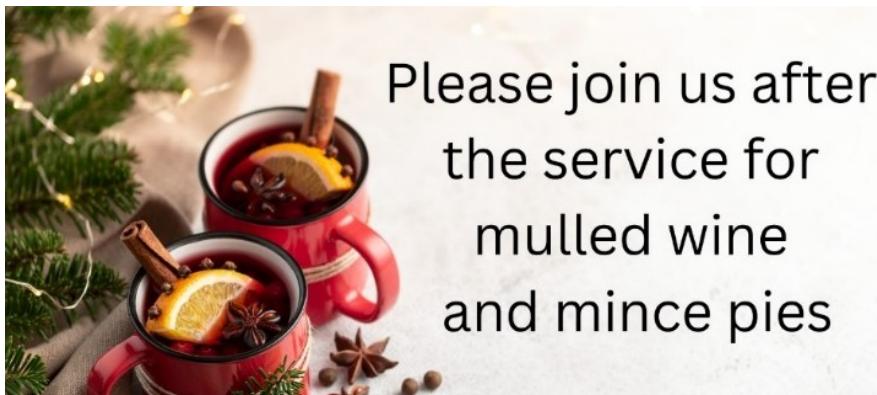
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The service concludes with the organ postlude, for which you are warmly invited to remain. If you wish to leave following the recession of clergy and choir, please do so quietly so that the voluntary may be fully appreciated.

Postlude:

There is a retiring collection for the work of the cathedral.

Please join us after the service
for mulled wine and mince pies
in the cathedral community centre hall
(turn left out of the cathedral)



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

At St Peter's Cathedral

24 Dec	4pm	Christingle Children's Service
	9pm	Carol Service
	11pm	Midnight Mass (with incense)
25 Dec	8am	Christmas Day Said Eucharist
	10am	Christmas Day Choral Eucharist
28 Dec	8am	Said Eucharist
	10am	Choral Eucharist