

***A very warm welcome to our service of
Carols by Candlelight.***



Most Importantly Happy Christmas!

We wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Keeping Everyone Safe

Face coverings are now mandatory in places of worship and this is a legal requirement unless you are medically exempt or a child under the age of 11. We kindly ask the congregation to remain masked throughout the service and even whilst singing. Please take care when moving around the building and leave some space between yourself and others. Please sanitise your hands when entering.

Please Support Your Church

King Charles the Martyr is a living Church serving the needs of people in our parish by providing traditional Anglican worship and pastoral care. In return, our parishioners commit time, energy and some financial resources. King Charles the Martyr is the oldest building in Tunbridge Wells and Grade One listed. It is a cherished part of our local heritage.

It costs us over £2500 a week to keep our beautiful church going. We are a charity and like many other churches the pandemic has been challenging to our finances. Any donations are very much appreciated.

You can donate via our collection baskets at the exit of the church or via our card reader machine. You can also donate via our website at <http://kcmtw.org/about/support/>

Processional Carol

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.

**All 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 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.**

**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 by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Introduction

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this town of Tunbridge Wells and Diocese of Rochester.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on 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.**

May the humility of the shepherds, the faith of the wise men, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ child, be God's gift to us and to all people, this Christmas and always.

Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 3. 8-15 God announces in the garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Choir Carol

Adam lay ybounden (Boris Ord)

Second Reading

Genesis 22. 15-18 God promises Abraham that in his descendants shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Carol

**Come thou redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.**

**The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honour all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.**

**All laud eternal Son to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Third Reading

Isaiah 9. 2, 6-7 Christ's birth is foretold by the prophet.

Choir Carol

The Cherry Tree Carol (arr. Stephen Cleobury)

Fourth Reading

Micah 5. 2-4 *The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.*

Carol

**See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.**

**Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."**

**Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?**

**"As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth."**

**Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee
in thy sweet humility!**

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 60. 1-6, 19 *The coming of the glory of the Lord.*

Choir Carol

Lully Lulla (Philip Stopford)

Sixth Reading

Matthew 1. 18-23 *Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

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 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 blessing 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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Seventh Reading

Luke 2. 8-16 *The shepherds go to the manger.*

Carol

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:**

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

**From God our heavenly Father
a holy angel came;
the shepherds saw the glory
and heard the voice proclaim
that Christ was born in Bethlehem
and Jesus is his name:**

**The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced in heart and mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessed babe to find:**

**And when to Bethlehem they came
whereat this infant lay;
they found him in a manger
where oxen fed on hay,
His mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray**

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place!
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace,
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:**

Eighth Reading

Matthew 2. 1-11 *The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.*

Choir Carol

The holly and the ivy (arr. Reginald Jacques)

Ninth Reading

(The First verse of Silent night is sung by the choir - please stand)

John 1. 1-14 *Saint John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God.*

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;
 *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, let us adore him...**

**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, let us adore him...**

**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.***

Conclusion and Blessing

Let us bless the living God:

He was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,

worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,

believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and things heavenly,
bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.***

Organ Voluntary

Toccata (Symphony V) Charles-Marie Widor