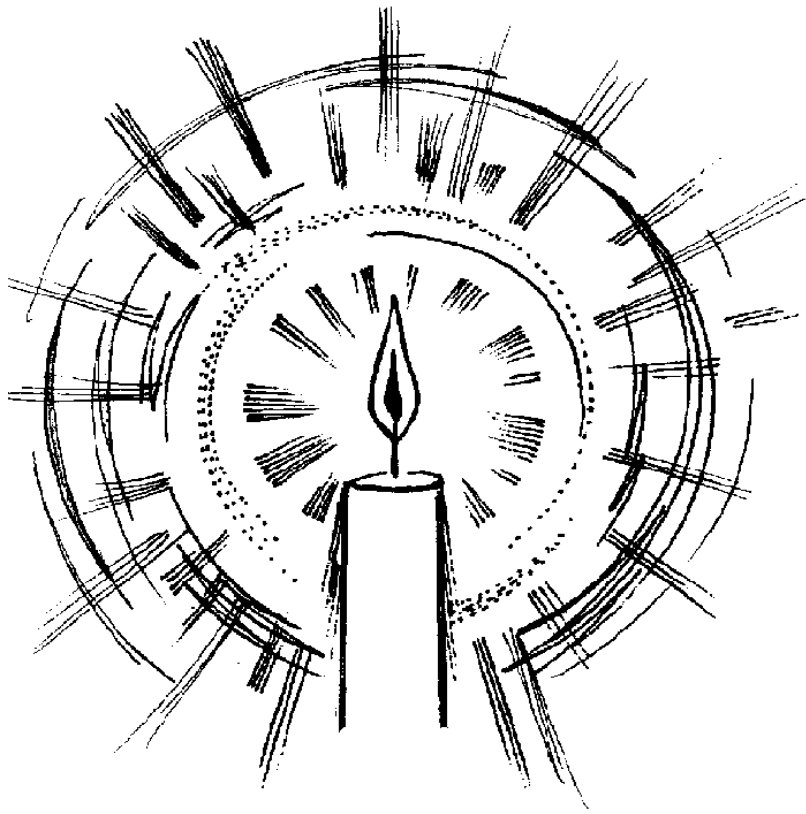


# Lighting the Lamps

Christmas Eve 2021



“The light has come into the world...”

Welcome! All the words you need to take part in this service are included on this sheet. Please use a phone torch to see the words.

*The service begins in darkness, then the first candle is lit*

## **CAROL Once in Royal David's city**

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.

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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

## **Introduction**

### **Reading - Isaiah 9: 2,6-7**

*The large window is lit*

### **CAROL O little town of Bethlehem**

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 blessings 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.

### **Reading** - Luke 2:1-7

*The crib scene is lit*

### **CAROL** Away in a Manger

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.

**CHOIR** – The Blessed Son of God by Vaughan Williams

**CAROL** It came upon the midnight clear

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, good will to men,  
from heav'n's all gracious King.'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the 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 man at war with man hears not  
the love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
comes round the age of gold:  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## **Reading - Luke 2:8-14**

*The night sky is lit up*

### **CAROL While shepherds watched**

*During this carol we light our handheld candles*

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 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:

The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
and in a manger laid.’

‘All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.’

## **Reading - Matthew 2:1-2,9-11**

*The star and camels are lit*

## **CHOIR** – Ring the Bells by Paul Fincham

### **Short Talk** - Revd Bridget Shepherd

*The tree is lit.*

### **CAROL O come, all ye faithful**

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...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God  
in the highest.'

*O come...*

### **Closing Blessing**

A retiring collection will be taken for the 'Helping Hands Foodbank'  
[www.goodpeter.org.uk/helping-hands-foodbank](http://www.goodpeter.org.uk/helping-hands-foodbank)

# The Bereavement Journey

*A course for anyone who's been bereaved*



Are you grieving the death of a loved one, or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A six-session course will soon be running in this area, looking at subjects like separation and loss, difficult feelings, the impact and pain of bereavement, coping with others, coping with change, moving forward, and an optional session on questions of faith. The course is for anyone who'd like to attend – whether you've been bereaved recently, or many years ago.

The course will run fortnightly beginning on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 3 – 5pm** at St. Peter's Church, Weigall Rd, SE12 8HQ. Tea and cake will be served half way through the session, and there is car parking at the church.

To book a place please contact: [office@goodpeter.org.uk](mailto:office@goodpeter.org.uk) or call 020 83185809

**Resolve**

**A 4 week course to help us make  
life-long positive changes.**

**Wednesdays 5th-26th January 2022  
7.30pm—8.30pm**

**St Swithun's Hall, St Swithun's Road  
SE13 6RW**

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