

# **Carol Service**

*with Blessing of the Crib*



**Thursday 17th December 2020 at  
12.45pm**

**St Stephen Walbrook**



## **St Stephen Walbrook**

*Welcome to St Stephen Walbrook in the City of London. For over a thousand years a place of worship has stood on this site. Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece, the present church, is the fourth to have stood here. At the time of its building the great dome was unique in England and it was from this church that Wren developed his plans for St Paul's Cathedral.*

*Here Sir John Vanbrugh is buried and many distinguished men of letters and of the arts have graced the life of this place. John Dunstable the composer and past merchants and Lord Mayors have been a part of its life.*

*There is a plaque to the Revd Robert Stuart De Courcey Laffan, who with Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the Olympic Games in 1890. Bombed in the Second World War and restored to its present magnificent state in the 1970s and 1980s, twentieth century artists and craftsmen have adorned its interior. Henry Moore's travertine marble altar now stands at the centre under Wren's dome surrounded by dazzling kneelers by Patrick Heron.*

*With an almost perfect acoustic for choral singing and a renowned organ famed for its regular recitals on Fridays at 12.30pm for City workers, St Stephen stands witness next to the Lord Mayor's residence and at the heart of the City it was built to serve.*

*On Thursdays the community gathers for a Sung Eucharist at 12.45pm with mass settings designed to blend with its traditional liturgy and architectural environment.*

*St Stephen is the home of the London Internet Church and its ministry of prayer and praise.*

## **Covid-19**

This service is organized in compliance with guidance provided by the Government and the Church of England.

**In particular, please sanitise your hands on arrival, wear face-coverings unless exempt, refrain from singing and maintain social distancing from people who are not part of your social bubble.**

**Please pray for all those affected by the pandemic.**

**Officiant**

Revd Stephen Baxter  
Priest-in-charge

**Verger**

Lee Fitzgerald

**Choir**

The St Stephen Voices

**Directed by**

Gabriella Noble

**Organist**

Ben Giddens

**Organ music before the service**

Nativité from Symphonie Passion op. 23  
*By Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

## The Service

*Please stand*

**Introit carol:**

**Once in royal David's City**

*Mrs CF Alexander (1818-95)*

*Tune: Irby - HJ Gauntlett (1805-76), AH Mann (1850-1929)*

## The Bidding Prayer

*Please sit*

**Carol:**

**Adam lay y bounden**

*Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

**First Lesson:**

**Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7**

**Read by: David Atterbury Thomas**

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour*

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 onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Carol:**

**O radiant dawn**

*Sir James MacMillan (b.1959)*

**Second lesson:**

**Luke 2:1-15**

**Read by: Sue Reardon Smith**

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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."

## **Blessing of The Crib:**

### **Prayers led by Peter Bryant**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come and worship the Lord:  
**for a great light has shone on the earth.**

Hear the words of the book of Wisdom:  
When peaceful silence lay over all and night was in the midst of her  
swift course, from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens,  
leapt your almighty Word.  
Hear the words of Saint John:  
God's love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the  
world so that we could have life through him.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Lord, by the song of the angels  
you disclosed your birth to your own people,  
and by the leading of a star  
you revealed your glory to strangers.  
Teach us to know you now,  
and to make you known to all.  
**Amen.**

### **Priest-in-charge**

God our Father,  
At this time  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:  
bless this crib,  
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Carol:**

**Away in a manger**

*Words: anon. (19<sup>th</sup> century American)*

*Tune: WJ Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), arranged by  
David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

**Third lesson:**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Read by Alex Ng**

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus*

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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol:**

**No small wonder**

*Paul Edwards (b.1955)*

*Please stand*

**Fourth lesson:**

**John 1:1-14**

**Read by Mary Ricketts**

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*Please sit*

**Address**

**Prayers led by Phillip Dawson concluding with the Lord's Prayer**



**Carol:** **See amid the winter's snow**  
*E Caswell (1814-78)*  
*Tune by John Goss (1800-80)*

## **Blessing**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Carol:** **Hark! the herald-angels sing**  
*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*  
*Tune by F Mendlesohn (1809-47)*

**Organ voluntary:** **Carillion-Sortie**  
*Henri Mulet (1878-1967)*

***The congregation is invited to leave in a socially distanced manner and gather as directed on the pavement and piazza outside church to sing the congregational carols led by the choir gathered at the foot of the steps.***

**Congregational 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

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

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 to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

*Phillips Brooks*  
*(1835-93)*

*English trad. Melody arranged*  
*by Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
*(1872-1858)*

**Congregational carol: God rest you merry, gentlemen**

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 were gone astray.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,*  
*Comfort and joy,*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tiding of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,*  
*Comfort and joy,*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

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  
Doth bring redeeming grace  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,*  
*Comfort and joy,*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*English traditional carol*  
*Arranged by David Wilcocks*

**Congregational 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, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord.*

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.*

*Tr F Oakeley*

*Melody JF Wade (c.1711-86)*

*WT Brooke & Others*

*Arranged by David Wilcocks*

**The next two live services at St Stephen Walbrook are:**

**12.45pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Choral Eucharist for Christmas Eve**

**12.45pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Choral Eucharist for Epiphany with  
The Archdeacon of London celebrating and preaching.**

Please do access recordings of services and concerts through the church's  
website: ***Ststephenwalbrook.net***

**Have a blessed, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.**