

St Giles, Aintree

'Lights of Love'



Christmas Readings & Carols

Welcome to St Giles for our Lights of Love service of Christmas readings and carols. It is great to see you!

Everything you need is in this order of service.

If you need large print, please ask the person giving them our or ask a neighbour where to ask. Keep your candle handy for later in the service.

If you are able, please stand for the carols and join in with the words in bold type.

A bell will ring to begin our service.

If you are visiting us today, please consider contributing to our upkeep and presence by giving a one-off or regular donation.

*You can do this via our contactless card reader, BACS (sort: **53-70-21**, acc. no: **07171072**), JustGiving page or our retiring collection plate by the back pews. Thank you!*

You are very welcome to stay for any refreshments that follow this service. Happy Christmas to you!

THE Wonder OF
C **CHRISTMAS**

The Processional Carol: Once in Royal David's City

The first verse is a solo verse, please stand to join in verse 2 as the clergy enter.

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.
Then like stars his children crowned,
all in white, his praise will sound.**

Welcome & Prayer

A minister welcomes everyone and opens our service with a prayer.

Please sit for the readings from Isaiah 11. 1-9 and Psalm 78: 70-72.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an 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 humankind.

"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 heav'nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
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 earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to earth
begin and never cease."

A poem is read. "The Christmas Cat" by U.A. Fanthorpe and a reading from Zechariah 9. 9-10.



Carol: Calypso Carol

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!

O now carry me...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

O now carry me...

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

O now carry me...

*Please sit for a reading from Luke 2. 1-21 and a poem entitled "Date of Birth"
by Paul Curtis.*

Carol

Silent Night

An introduction will be played by musicians.

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Please sit for a poem: "Neighbours of the Christ Night" by N.A. Smith.

Prayers with blessing of the Christmas Tree and Lights of Love.

Our clergy lead us in prayers. Please sit or kneel, whichever is more comfortable.



Carol Angels From the Realms of Glory

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight through all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth**

***Gloria! In excelsis deo,
Gloria! In excelsis deo.***

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night
God on earth is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light**

***Gloria! In excelsis deo,
Gloria! In excelsis deo.***

**Sages, leave your contemplation,
brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star!**

***Gloria! In excelsis deo,
Gloria! In excelsis deo.
Gloria! In excelsis deo,
Gloria! In excelsis deo.***

*Please sit for a reading from Matthew 2. 1-12 and a reading from Psalm 72:
1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 15.*

As our next carol is sung, we light our candles for the gospel reading.

*Please take care when lighting or holding candles. Fire equipment is
available.*



**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let earth it's songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love!**

If you are able, please remain standing for a bible reading from the gospel of John 1. 1-14.

The minister says: Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The minister concludes: This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Candles are extinguished and the gospel returned to the altar.

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians
sing to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and saints with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to earth,
now and forevermore. Amen."

The Blessing

A minister prays God's blessing on us with special Christmas words.

The minister says: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

May Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, give you the fullness of his inward peace and goodwill; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, dwell within each of you, and those whom you meet this Christmas, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

You are very welcome to join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

*Hark the Herald Angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth!**

*Hark the Herald Angels sing,
glory to the new-born King!*

You are very welcome to join us for the rest of this year's services and socials.

20th December

Grand Raffle Prize Draw at 10:30 am, or on Facebook live.

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Crib Service.

All-Age 45 minute service with songs, crib scene and a story.

11:30 pm Midnight Eucharist.

Sung Eucharist with carols, the smell of incense, readings and a talk.

Christmas Day

10:00 am Sung Eucharist with carols, readings and an all-age talk.

Bring your favourite present!

26th December - St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)

10: 30 am Parish Eucharist
with carols, readings and a talk.

6th January - Epiphany

8:30 am Holy Communion.

Quiet, 40 minute said service with readings and a talk.

10:30 am Parish Eucharist.

Sung Eucharist with hymns, readings and a talk.

6th February - Candlemas

8:30 am Holy Communion.

10:30 am Parish Eucharist.

3:00 pm Candlemas Christingle.

All-Age Christingle Service with songs, short talk, and prayers.

Merry
Christmas

