



# The Carol Service

**Wednesday 10th December 2025**

Retiring collection in aid of Genesis Trust

BathAbbey



# The University Carol Service

Welcome to the Carol Service! It's a service, and not a concert, so you will be involved in both active and passive participation – joining in singing the hymns and taking part in the prayers, and listening to the choir, organist and readers offering their skills on your behalf. The familiar and traditional congregational hymns are there for you to sing – and we do encourage you to join in singing them, so please do just that!

It is another two weeks until Christmas. We are in the middle of the Church's month-long season of Advent - a time of preparing to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation. There is an air of expectation, and in this service, we reflect this time of preparation – which is why, contrasting with the city outside, the Abbey is yet to be fully decorated for Christmas. The movement of the Choir from West to East during the service symbolises the Advent journey from Darkness to Light - natural symbols, so obviously prevalent at this, the darkest time of the year, and one of the themes which underpin the service. The Light is God, mysteriously coming to dwell among us in the fullness of humanity as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary. The final bible reading sets out this central truth, and it is read from the nave of the church to represent Christ amongst his people, bringing the Good News to them.

The University Carol Service has existed in its current format for nearly 40 years. Like so many others, our order of service derives from that at King's College Cambridge, which itself evolved from that founded at Truro Cathedral in the 1880s; the King's service established its current format just over 100 years ago. Its 'pattern and strength...derive from the lessons and not the music'. The poetry and the music serve to comment on the biblical story. The elements of music, speech, silence and movement combine to emphasise the service's climax - the reading from St John's Gospel.

This year we mark 500 years since composer Palestrina's birth, and it has been 275 years since J S Bach's death. More positively, Sir John Rutter celebrated his 80th birthday in September, with a visit here, and we record that with one of his earliest carols.

## ***About the Charity ...***



Thank you for your support

Genesis Trust is a network of people, often but not exclusively Christians, who are following Jesus' call to love their neighbour. It supports disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the Bath area, providing compassionate help to support people with their immediate needs and journey with them as they gain confidence, learn new skills, overcome challenges and make choices to restore and rebuild their lives. It does this by running a series of interlinked projects which would not be possible without the commitment and support of amazing volunteers. In many ways the Trust's role is to offer opportunities for people to help other people.

# ***Welcome...***

Welcome to the University of Bath Carol Service. We invite you to enter into the mystery and depth of the Christmas story, told again tonight through specially chosen words and music. In the Christmas story heaven touches earth. The world is changed.

It is a story of wonder and surprise, of God coming towards us, and becoming one of us, through a vulnerable human baby born in a simple stable. The birth of Christ has been recounted for around two thousand years; it is the story that makes the difference, the story of “the Word” becoming flesh (Jesus) and dwelling among us. It is both historical, and a living story for today. God is now with us.

It also a story of hope. This year many people are anxious and concerned. Wars around the world, and financial pressures play a part. We are now in the season of Advent – and our preparation for Christmas. May this service help you find hope and strength this festive time.

Your Ecumenical Faith and Chaplaincy Team wish you, and your family and friends,  
peace, health, joy and happiness this Christmastide.

Rev Ian Spence, University Co-ordinating Faith Leader  
Rev Kijung Kim, Visiting Chaplain  
Jodie Lintern, Visiting Chaplain  
Father Christopher Whitehead, Visiting Chaplain



**Organist: Gary Desmond, Deputy Organist, Bath Abbey**  
**Conductor: Dr Michael Painting**

The Choir is a part of Students' Union Society ChAOS,  
and in the past has also been supported by the University Alumni Fund.

**Before the Service starts....**

**Please silence chiming watches and mobile phones.**

**If you use a hearing aid, please turn it to 'T' - the Abbey has an induction loop.**

**Please note that photography and recording are not permitted.**

*The University is most grateful to the Acting Rector and PCC of Bath Abbey  
for enabling this service to take place here.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## WELCOME

from the Reverend Chantal Mason, Acting Rector of Bath Abbey

¶ **ALL STAND, and keep a silence**

*The University Chamber Choir sings:*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say:  
tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,  
go ye out to meet him and say:  
hear O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.  
Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say:  
tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*Matin Responsory, First Sunday in Advent, Sarum Breviary*

*G P da Palestrina 1525-1594*

Organ : Chorale Prelude *Wachet auf!*

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

*During the Chorale Prelude, the Choir and Clergy process to the Crossing.*

*The Choir:*

‘Wachet auf!’ ruft uns die Stimme  
der Wächter, sehr hoch auf der Sinne;  
‘Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!’  
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde;  
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:  
‘Wo seid ihr, klugen Jungfrauen?’  
Wohl auf, der Bräutigam kömmt;  
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!  
Halleluja!  
Macht euch bereit  
zu der Hochzeit.  
Ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!’

‘Wake O wake!’ With tidings thrilling  
the watchmen’s cry the air is filling:  
‘Arise. Jerusalem, arise!’  
Midnight strikes! no more delaying:  
the hour has come!’ we hear them saying;  
‘Where are you all, ye virgins wise?’  
The bridegroom now is nigh:  
Stand forth! Your lamps raise high!  
Halleluja!  
In bright array  
this nuptial day,  
go forth and meet him in the way!’

*Words and music by Philipp Nicolai 1556-1608  
Translation by Francis Crawford Burkitt 1864-1935*

*Arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach*

¶ **All remain standing**

# The Bidding

## - *Thought and Prayer* -

The Reverend Ian Spence, University Co-ordinating Faith Leader

*The Bidding ends with the Lord's Prayer, said by everyone in this or your own language:*

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### *Advent Prayer*

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in unity,  
that our praise and worship  
might echo in these walls  
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in mission  
that the hope within  
might be the song we sing,  
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in service,  
that the path we follow might  
lead us from a stable  
to a glimpse of eternity. **Amen.**

¶ All sing:

**1**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**2**

O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! etc.*

**3**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice! etc.*

**4**

O come thou key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! etc.*

*Based on the Great 'O' Advent Antiphons  
Translated by T. A. Lacey, 1853-1931*

*Adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore 1811-90  
v4 arranged by Sir John Rutter 1945-*

¶ All sit

*The Choir:*

In the stillness of a church  
where candles glow,  
in the softness of a fall  
of fresh white snow,  
in the brightness of the stars  
that shine this night,  
in the calmness of a pool  
of healing light,  
in the clearness of a choir  
that softly sings,

In the oneness of a hush  
of angels' wings,  
in the mildness of a night  
by stable bare,  
in the quietness of a lull  
near cradle fair,  
there's a patience as we wait  
for a new morn,  
and the presence of a child  
soon to be born.

*Katrina Shepherd*

*Sally Beamish 1956-*

## **The Coming of Christ**

*God's people are comforted*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

*Isaiah 40: 1 – 5*

*Reader: Aaron Kalejaiye, Undergraduate, Department of Economics*

### *First Coming*

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.  
He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt  
to a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his light would not go out.  
He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

*Madeleine L'Engle 1918-2007*

*Reader: Pippa McLernon, Faculty of Engineering & Design*

*The Choir:*

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

*Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), based on Luke 4: 18 – 19*

*Richard N Scarth 1930-2014*

**¶ All stand and sing:**

**1**

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, goodwill to all, from heav'n's all gracious King!'  
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

**2**

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

**3**

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!

**4**

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 send back the song which now the angels sing.

*Edmund Hamilton Sears 1810-1876*

*Traditional English tune adapted by Sir Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900  
v4 arranged by John Scott LVO 1956-2015*

**¶ All sit**

# The Annunciation

## *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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. 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.

*Luke 1: 26 - 35, 38*

*Reader: Amy Ridgway, Chair, CathSoc*

## *Advent Calendar*

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

*Archbishop Rowan Williams 1950-*

*Reader: Oscar Von Hannover, Postgraduate,  
Department of Computer Science*



*The Choir:*

There stood in heaven a linden tree;  
but though 'twas honey-laden,  
all angels cried, 'No bloom shall be  
like that of one fair maiden.'

Sped Gabriel on wingèd feet,  
and passed through bolted portals,  
in Nazareth, a maid to greet  
blest o'er all other mortals.

'Hail Mary!' quoth the angel mild  
'Of womankind the fairest:  
the Virgin ay shalt thou be styled,  
a babe although thou bearest.'

'So be it!' God's handmaiden cried,  
'According to thy telling.'  
Whereon the angel smartly hied  
up home-ward to his dwelling.

This tidings fill'd his friends with glee:  
'twas pass'd from one to other,  
tis Mary, see, and none but she,  
and God would call her mother.

*14th century carol*

*Translation by George Radcliffe Woodward and others*

*Melody from the Dublin Troper (1360)*

*arranged by Malcolm Archer 1952-*

**¶ All stand and sing:**

**1**

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

*Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95*

*Henry J Gauntlett 1805-76, harmonised by Arthur H Mann 1850-1929*

*v6 arranged by James Anthony O'Donnell LVO KCSG 1961-*

**¶ All sit**

# The Birth of Jesus

*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. 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.

*Luke 2: 1, 3 - 7*

*Reader: Atmos Meredith, Christian Union*

*I saw a stable*

I saw a stable, low and very bare,  
a little child in a manger.  
The oxen knew him, had him in their care,  
to men he was a stranger.  
The safety of the world was lying there,  
and the world's danger.

*Mary Elizabeth Coleridge 1861-1907*

*Reader: Professor Richard Butler,  
Department of Mechanical Engineering*

*The Choir:*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lays down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky look 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 side until morning is nigh.

*19<sup>th</sup> century American carol*

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

*Melody by William James Kirkpatrick 1838-1921  
arranged by David Hill MBE 1957-*

*The Shepherd's Pipe Carol*

Going through the hills on a night all starry, on the way to Bethlehem.  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping, on the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:*

*'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King*

*is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily, on the way to Bethlehem:  
who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely, on the way to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:*

*'Dance and sing for the joy that Christ the newborn king  
is come to bring peace on earth and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely, on the way to Bethlehem;  
but a king will hear me play sweet lullabies, when I get to Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,  
hovered over the manger where the babe was lying  
cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

'Where is the new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?  
'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly, in the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:*

*'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the king of Kings  
is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new king's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:*

*'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
is born in the stable yonder, born for you and me.'*

*Words and music by Sir John Rutter 1945-*

## **The shepherds and the wise men**

### *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.

*The wise men ask the children the way*

'Dear children,' they asked in every town  
three kings from the land of the sun,  
'Which is the road to Bethlehem?'  
But neither the old nor the young

could tell, and the kings rode on;  
their guide was a star in the air  
of gold, which glittered ahead of them,  
so clear, so clear.

The star stood still over Joseph's house.  
they all of them stepped in;  
the good ox lowed and the little child cried,  
and the kings began to sing.

*Heinrich Heine 1797 – 1856  
in translation by Geoffrey Grigson 1905- 1985*

*Reader: Jodie Lintern, Visiting Chaplain*

*The Choir:*      Shepherds called by angels,  
called by love and angels;  
no place for them but a stable.  
*My Lord has come!*

Sages, searching for stars,  
searching for love in heaven;  
no place for them but a stable.  
*My Lord has come!*

His love will hold me,  
his love will cherish me,  
love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,  
sages and shepherds and angels;  
no place for me but a stable.  
*My Lord has come!*

*Words and music by Will Todd 1970-*

**All stand and sing:**

**1**

God rest you merry, people then,  
have nothing to dismay  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from mocking power  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**2**

From God our heavenly Father  
a blessed angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**3**

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

**4**

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
whereat this infant lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling,  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

## 5

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and courtesy  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
is present in this place:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*English traditional, arranged by Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015*

¶ **All remain standing and turn to face the Gospel Reader.**

*The Gospel is read from the nave of the Abbey, thus representing Christ amongst the people,  
and bringing the Good News to them. Jesus is Emmanuel: God is with us.*

## The Gospel

*The Incarnation of the Word of God*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of mankind. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

**(All) Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ **All remain standing**

Organ : Gospel Fanfare

*The Choir:*

Gaudete! gaudete! Christus est natus  
ex Maria Virgine : gaudete!

*Rejoice! rejoice! Christ is born  
of the Virgin Mary: rejoice!*

Tempus ad est gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;  
carmina laeticiae, devote reddamus.

*The time of grace has come;  
let us devoutly sing songs of joy.*

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante,  
mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

*God is made man, nature wonders;  
the world is renewed by Christ the King.*

Ergo nostra concio, psallat jam in lustro;  
Benedicatio Domino: salus regi nostro.

*Let us all sing praises at this time;  
let us bless the Lord and greet the King.*

*Piae cantiones 1582*

*Jistebnice Cantional, 1420*

¶ **All sing:**

**1**

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, Christ the Lord.*

**2**

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*O come, etc.*

**3**

Sing choirs of angels  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
in the highest:  
*O come, etc.*

**4**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, etc.*

*18<sup>th</sup> century, translated by F Oakeley and W T Brook*

*J F Wade,  
vv3 and 4 arranged by Sir David Willcocks*

## **The Blessing**

Reverend Ian Spence, University Co-ordinating Faith Leader

Almighty God, with this yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ: grant  
that we may joyfully receive him this Christmastime.

May he 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.**

¶ All sing:

1

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born king;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and humans 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 new-born king.*

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come  
offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the godhead see,  
hail th'incarnate deity!  
Pleased as us with God to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born 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 up those of earth,  
born to give them second birth:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born king.*

*Charles Wesley 1707-1788 and others*

*Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1843  
v3 arranged by Sir Philip Ledger 1937-2012*

## **Festive Greeting**

Professor Phil Taylor, Vice-Chancellor and President

¶ All remain standing and quiet as the Choir and Clergy process from the Church.

Organ Voluntary: Sortie on 'Mendelssohn'

David Bednall

*This form of service is not needed again – do please take it away with you.*