

# AVON REACH CAROL SERVICE



A Festival of Six Lessons and Carols  
Prepared by All Saints Mundeford  
Led by Anthea Bell

December 2020

*Welcome and Opening Prayer by Anthea Bell*

**Carol: Once in Royal David's City**

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 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.**

---

---

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7: The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

*Read by Sarah, Staff member at Avon Reach*

---

---

**Carol:** Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let all their 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.

---

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38: The Annunciation to Mary

*Read by Marion Hart*

---

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

---

---

### THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7: The birth of Jesus

*Read by Anthea Bell*

---

---

**Carol:** Away in a manger  
No crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky  
Look down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay  
The cattle are lowing  
The poor Baby wakes  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes

**I love Thee, Lord Jesus  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side  
'Til morning is nigh**

**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**

---

---

#### **FOURTH LESSON**

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

*Read by Megan and Poppy, Young members of the church*

---

---

**Carol: 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;  
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!  
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**

---

---

## FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11: The Magi are led by the star to Jesus

*Read by Gill Phillips, Churchwarden*

---

---

**Carol: Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you;  
Christ the babe was born for you!**

---

---

## SIXTH READING

John 1:1-14: St John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

*Read by Revd Anne Jablonski, the Associate Vicar*

---

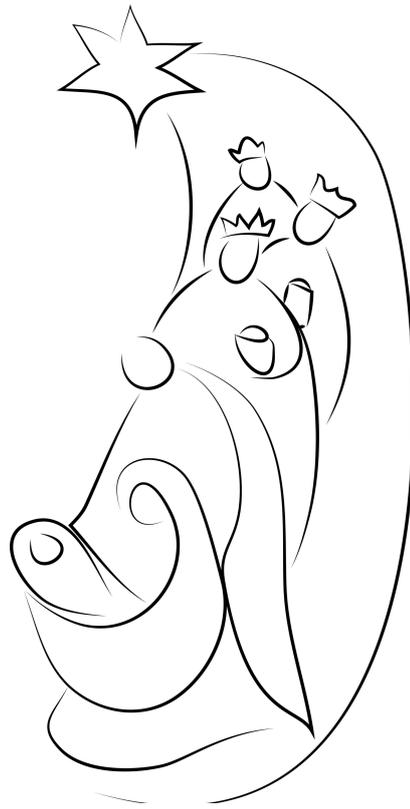
---

*The Blessing: by Revd Andrew Jablonski*

**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 ..*

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 ..*



---

Everyone at All Saints Mundeford  
wishes you a very happy  
and peaceful Christmas

---