

Putnoe Heights Church

Carols by Candlelight 2016



After the welcome, the service will proceed unannounced.

Welcome

*** Carol 1 ***

Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
hail, the incarnate Deity!
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

Opening Prayer *(All sit, said together)*

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Child of Bethlehem and Son of God:
help us this night to join our songs of glory
to those of the heavenly host,
that the joy of the church on earth
may be heard in the praise of heaven, Amen.**

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15,17,19

*(All readings will proceed unannounced
and without congregational responses)*

*** Carol 2 ***

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.'

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 heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:5-18

*** Carol 3 ***

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.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing 'alleluia:
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.

Third Lesson
Isaiah 9:2,6-7

***** Carol 4 *****

The Choir will sing
Away in a manger

Fourth Lesson
Micah 5:2-4

***** Carol 5 *****

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 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.

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

Fifth Lesson
Matthew 1:18-23

***** Carol 6 *****

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.

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;
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

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 men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born 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 men,
now and for evermore. Amen.'

Sixth Lesson
Luke 2:1-7

***** Carol 7 *****

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 street 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!

Seventh Lesson
Luke 2:8-20

***** Carol 8 *****

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay
a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:

This star drew nigh to the north-west,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven
and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

Eighth Lesson
Matthew 2:1-12

Band Piece

Address

Ninth Lesson
John 1:1-14

Prayers

Followed by the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

Offering

*If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to
enable us to reclaim tax, at no cost to you. They can be
found on the backs of chairs around the church, or
obtained from the welcome table at the door*

*All stand as the Offering is brought
forward. We say together:*

**God our Father,
we give thanks for your gift of Jesus.
Accept the gifts we offer
our money and also our lives.
In Jesus name. Amen.**

***** Carol 9 *****

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:

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo, star-led chieftains,
magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child
bring our hearts oblations:

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

The Blessing

May he who by his Incarnation
gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace
and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**



*I have come
into the world
as a light
so that no one
who believes in me
should stay
in darkness*

Jesus

**Our thanks to Bedford Town Band
and our organist Mr Clive Simmonds
Please do come and join us for our
church services at 11.00am every Sunday.**