



Sherbrooke Mosspark Parish Church

**Friday 24th December 2021
Watchnight Service**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Voluntary *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* – J. Brahms
Adeste Fideles – C. Ives
Noël suisse – L. Daquin
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 700) – J. S. Bach (1685–1750)
In dulci jubilo (BuxWV 197) – D. Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Choir Up! Good Christen folk and listen – are. G. R. Woodward
Words: G. R. Woodward

Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong:
Ding-a-dong-ding.

1. Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple
Bid good people
Come adore the new-born King:

2. Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

3. Born of mother, blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable
('Tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

Call to Worship

Praise 315 Once in Royal David's City (first verse will be a solo)

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 meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4 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,
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Prayers of approach confession and the Lord's Prayer

Praise 304 O little town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet, in your dark streets shining
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Reading

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

(p.606)

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Choir

Myn lyking – R. R. Terry
Words: 15th century

1. I saw a fair mayden syttin and sing.
She lulled a lyttel childe, a sweetè lording.

*Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting.
Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.*

2. That same Lord is he that made allè thing
Of allè lord is He is Lord of allè kynges Kyng.

3. There was a mickle melody at that chylde's birth.
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.

4. Angels bright sang their song to that chyld;
Blyssid be thou, and so be she, so meek and so mild.

Reading

Luke 2: 1-7

(p.55)

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. 2 This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. 7 And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Prayers of Intercession

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, good will to men,
from heaven'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 heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Sermon

Waiting for Christmas/ Approaching Midnight

309 Still the Night, holy the night

1 Still the night, holy the night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
watch o'er the child belovèd and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest,
sleeping in heavenly rest.

2 Still the night, holy the night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long,
far and near, the angel-song,
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'

3 Still the night, holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born!
Saviour, since thou art born!

Christmas Declaration

306 O come all ye faithful,

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,
O come, let us adore him,
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; [Refrain]

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

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

Benediction

Voluntary Fantasia in G (BWV 572) – J. S. Bach

Covid Health & Safety Framework update: the Covid sub-committee has updated the health and safety framework with effect from 14th December 2021. Further details can be found on the Church website and consideration should be given of government advice to take advantage of free daily lateral flow tests. The key aspects are:

- **Masks:** to be worn inside the sanctuary (throughout the service) and in the hall while moving around
- **Singing:** please stand and sing with your masks on for all hymns if you wish.
- **Seating:** a return of the church pews with no allocation of seating; preregistering to attend services is still advisable.
- **Sanctuary and Halls:** in order to maximise ventilation throughout our church buildings, various doors will remain open both in the Sanctuary and Halls. We are also monitoring carbon dioxide levels both in the Sanctuary and Halls.
- **Movement between Sanctuary and Halls:** please take your time and keep your distance as a one-way system is no longer required. Please use the internal stairs or the east transept ramp to

move between the Sanctuary and Halls. Adam has returned to greeting people in the main entrance vestibule after the service.

- **Tea and Coffee:** given the recent government advice on restricting socialising to three households around the Christmas period, the serving of tea and coffee after services has been suspended.

Notices

- Saturday 25th December, 10.30am – Christmas Day Service
- Juke Box Sunday, did someone else hog the remote on Christmas Day? Choosing Home Alone when you'd rather watch the Snowman? Queen's Speech over the Vicar of Dibley? Come to church on Sunday 26th December and you choose what gets sung. All you need to do is turn up, tell me your favourite carol and why, and we'll sing it. Carols round the tree and a slower (turkey induced), informal, Boxing Day service for all the family.

Church Directory 2022 is now available

Stamps: Before you throw out your Christmas card envelopes please can you remove the stamps from them the church would be grateful to collect any stamps which you may receive. Please place them in the basket in the front entrance labelled "Stamps"--- with a half inch rim if possible. The stamps are sent on to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp. For more information see Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal.

Life & Work: Subscriptions for next year's magazines are now due. The cost for an annual subscription (12 issues) is **£30**. Please pass your cash/cheques (made payable to the Church) to the office.

Should you wish we have printed a large version of the Order of Service please see one of the Door Team if you would like one.

Minister: Adam Dillon

Organist: John Gormley

Beadle: Cameron Aitken

Welcome Team
Una Heaney
Pat McIntyre
Marco Gaudion
Allan Lapsley

Publicity & website: Mags Cargey

Reader: Allan Lapsley

Flowers The Christmas decorations have been kindly donated by The Flower Committee and donations from the congregation

CCL 242960/ 342327

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