

Carols under the Spire 2023

5.15pm (Before Service)

- Christmas Playlist (Mark)

5.30 pm

- Welcome (Sean)
 - Iconic Spire
 - Carol Sheets
 - Refreshments

Carol O little town of Bethlehem (3)

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

Prayer (Sean)

Almighty God, once again this Christmas we remember in story and song the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. We kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth; at God being born as one of us and lying humbly in a manger. You experienced the best and worst of our lives to show the world the power of love. May the light of your love shine in our hearts this Christmas, transforming our lives and homes with a love that notices and cares for people who are sad, hungry, cold, or lonely. Amen.

Carol **Away in a Manger (4)**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked 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 my side until 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 fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Reading Luke 2.1-20

(Local Worship Leader) About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to

Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

(Sean) While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

(Local Worship Leader) There were shepherds camping in the neighbourhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

Carol Silent Night (43)

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 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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.**

Prayer (Local Worship Leader)
Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Help us to remember that it is always more of blessing to give than to receive,
and to be thankful for what we have, and especially for who we have in our lives.
Above all, we thank you for your loving, strong, and peaceful presence even in
the midst of the chaos of our lives. We pray and give you thanks in the name of
the baby born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord, Amen.

Carol God rest ye merry gentlemen (16, omit verse 4)

**God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy***

**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,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy***

**And 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,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy***

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels (20)

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.
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Blessing (Sean)

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and your families this Christmastime and remain with you forevermore. Amen.

- Reminder about services and refreshments
- We wish you a Merry Christmas
- Christmas play list (Mark)

