

ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY
AUCKLAND RAINBOW COMMUNITY CHURCH



CHRISTMAS READINGS AND CAROLS

18 DECEMBER 2022 8 pm

INTROIT

Matin Responsory (I look from afar)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1526-1594)

HYMN

CHOIR:

Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour now to us displayed.

ALL:

O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breath a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene,
and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Words: St Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397), tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur, melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
as adapted from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582, harm. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934). TIS 194

BIDDING PRAYER

Advent is a time of waiting, waiting with hope.
While the world around us
has already arrived at Christmas, we wait.
We wait and listen,
to better prepare ourselves
for the great mystery of the birth at Bethlehem.
As we wait this year
we hear told the story of the birth of Jesus.
As we listen we remember the needs
of the world around us,
especially those who suffer from loneliness and loss,
poverty and illness, violence and war.
We pray this night
with hope for justice and peace and goodwill
for all God's people.
These prayers we offer,
in the words of Jesus who taught us to pray:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CAROL

Creator alme siderum (Creator of the stars of night)

Plainchant

READING

The Annunciation

CAROL

Ave Maria

Robert Parsons (c.1535-1571)

READING

The Visitation to Elizabeth

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat

Rosemary Russell

CAROL

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless Ave
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Words: Andrew Carter. Tune: Traditional French.

READING

The Birth of Jesus

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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
Tune: Forest Green, English traditional melody. TIS 316*

READING

The Shepherds

CAROL

Quem pastores laudavere

Arr John Rutter

READING

The Magi

CAROL

Eastern Monarchs, sages three

Peter Naylor

READING

An extract from "The Singing Tree"

Kate Sereby

OFFERTORY CAROL ¹

Coldly the night winds winging,
softly the shepherds singing,
listen, you warring people,
Mary's child is born.

No room but in a manger,
come, O lovely stranger,
born among the cattle,
Lord of the Christmas morn.

Fiercely the blast fires burning,
ceaseless the wheels a-turning
have you no room, who labour
on the assembly line?

Mary's son beside you
brings his grace to guide you:
yes, come our heavenly neighbour,
enter this heart of mine.

¹ *During this hymn no collection will be taken up. There is a donation bowl on the back table.*

*For electronic giving option: text **stmatthew** to **818** to make a fast one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City. Or you can download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.*

The collection for today's service will go to support Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Fount of the nations' healing,
secret of peace revealing,
through the world's darkness lead us
till your new day we see.
Crown and cross and cradle,
sceptre and scourge and stable,
tears and triumph speed us
on to your victory.

Words: Morris Martin, alt. Tune: Workers' Carol, Paul Petrocokino. TIS 321

READING

"First Coming"

Madeleine L'Engle (adapted)

CAROL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou living Source of light,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: based on Latin Antiphons, tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Veni Emmanuel, plainsong melody, harm J. H. Arnold (1887-1956). TIS 265

COLLECT AND BLESSING

CAROL

E'en so Lord Jesus

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

ST MATTHEW'S VOICES

*Celia Aspey-Gordon,
Matthew Howes
Nathan Hauraki
Blake Scanlen,
Nicholas Forbes*

Nicholas Forbes, organ

PLEASE STAY FOR SUPPER

Christmas Service times:

Saturday 24 December	7.30pm Carols for Christmas
	8pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
Sunday 25 December	10am Christmas Day Eucharist
	5pm Christmas Day Service of Auckland Rainbow Community Church

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