

St Matthew-in-the-City



# **Carols for Christmas with Auckland City Brass**

24 December 2025    10.30pm

**Nau mai, haere mai;  
a warm welcome to St Matthew-in-the-City.  
We are delighted to join with Auckland City Brass  
for our Christmas Carol service and glad you have  
come to celebrate Christmas with this community.**

**We hope that you will find the Christmas spirit  
of peace and love in tonight's celebrations.**

## **CHRISTMAS FANFARE**

*Arr. by Brian Sadler*

## **WELCOME**

### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

**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 in us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

*Tune: Forest Green, English traditional melody*

## **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

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)*

## **HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

**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 th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Hail the heav'n-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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Tune: Mendelssohn*

## **IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS**

*Meredith Wilson, arr. by Anthony Young*

## **SILENT NIGHT**

**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.**

**Mārie te pō, tapu te pō  
ka kite nga hepara  
Te korōria o te rangi  
Me nga ahera Hareruia  
Kua whanau te tamaiti e Ihu te Karaiti**

**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.**

*Words: J. Mohr (1792-1848). Tune: Melody by F. X. Gruber (1787-1863)*

## **WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED**

**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 humankind.**

**'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 swaddling clothes  
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;  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all  
begin and never cease.'**

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715). Tune: Winchester Old*

## **I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS**

*Irving Berlin, arr. by Anthony Young*

## OFFERTORY

The Offertory will be shared with the Auckland City Mission, Christian World Service, and St Matthew-in-the-City.

Thank you for your contribution to the work of these organisations.

*For electronic giving options:*

1. *to make a fast one-off, or ongoing, donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or **scan this QR code**:*



2. *use the **Tap-n-Go** terminal on top of the donation box.*

## THE FIRST NOWELL

The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay 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.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!

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

**This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
over Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!**

**Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!**

*Words: Anon., English c. 17th cent.*

*Tune: The First Nowell, English trad. melody, harm. D. Evans (1874-1948)*

## **AWAY IN A MANGER**

**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 you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

*Words: Traditional Carol (19th century). Tune: Cradle Song*

## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

**Joy to the world! The Lord has 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 earth! The Saviour reigns;  
your sweetest songs employ.  
While fields and streams, 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.**

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), based on Psalm 98  
Tune: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

## **LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW**

*Styne & Cahn, arr. by Anthony Young*

# **O CHRISTMAS TREE**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
how lovely are your branches!**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
how lovely are your branches!**

**Not only green in summer's heat,  
but also winter's snow and sleet.**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
how lovely are your branches!**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
of all the trees most lovely;**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
of all the trees most lovely.**

**Each year you bring to us delight  
with brightly shining Christmas light!**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
of all the trees most lovely.**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
we learn from all your beauty;**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
we learn from all your beauty.**

**Your bright green leaves with festive cheer,  
give hope and strength throughout the year.**

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
we learn from all your beauty.**

*Words: Translated H. Brueckner. Tune: O Tannenbaum*

## **O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**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 from God, light from light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb!  
Very God, begotten, not created:**

*O come, let us adore him. . .*

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

*O come, let us adore him. . .*

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

*O come, let us adore him. . .*

*Words: possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786). Tune: Adeste Fideles*

## **BLESSING**

## Midnight Mass at 11.30pm will follow this service.

Whatever your beliefs,  
you are welcome to participate fully  
and share in this midnight Christmas celebration.

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### ***Christmas Day service times:***

**8am** Christmas Eucharist

**10am** Christmas Sung Eucharist

If you want to know more about St Matthew's take a look at our website <http://www.stmatthews.nz/>, like us on Facebook.

Feel free to take **photos** during our services and share them on Facebook and Twitter. **No video** recording please.

**Toilets** are located down the stairs on the left hand side of the church. An **accessible toilet** is located on the right hand side past the kitchen.

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The **Parish Office** is now closed; reopening Monday 12 January 2026.

**Sunday services** on 28 December, 4, 11, 18, 25 January at 10am only.

**Sunday 8am services** resume on February 1, 2026

**Wednesday 12.20pm services** resume on February 4, 2026

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**Vicar:** Rev Richard Bonifant *[richard@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:richard@stmatthews.org.nz)*

**Priest for Community Engagement:** Rev Cate Thorn  
*[cate@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:cate@stmatthews.org.nz)*

**Curate:** Rev Grace Behm *[grace@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:grace@stmatthews.org.nz)*

Parish Office **phone:** (09) 379 0625

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The service is being live streamed –  
the camera only shows the altar area, not the congregation.

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*You are invited to **keep** this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you  
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.*

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