

St Matthew-in-the-City

Nativity Service for Children



Christmas Eve 2024 6 pm

Welcome and Introduction

Rev Cate Thorn

Carol Once in Royal David's City

**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 meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the loving mother
in whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all should be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1803-1876)

harm. by A. H. Mann. Carols for Choirs I 30

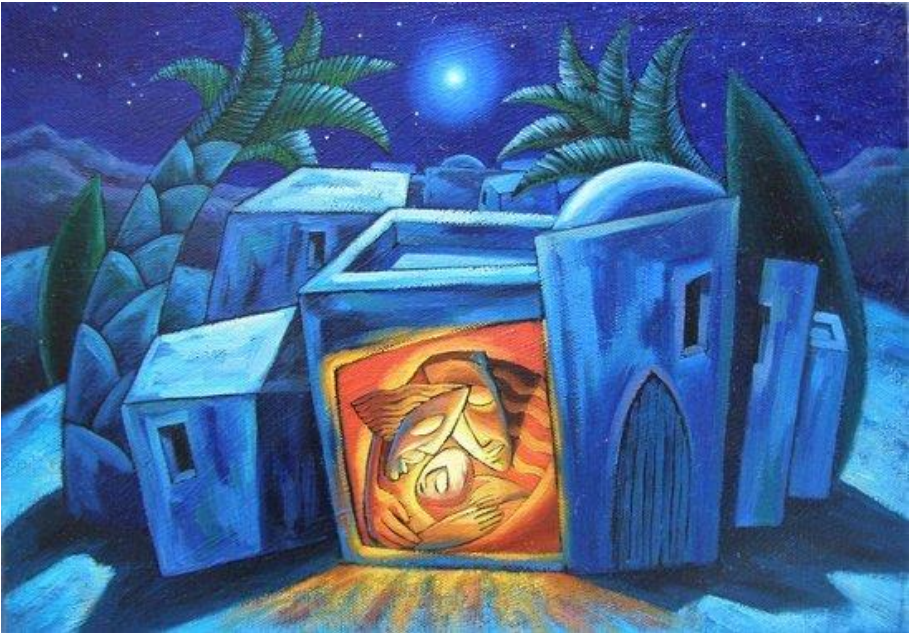
Story Luke chapter 2:1-7

Carol 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.**

*Words: Trad. Carol (19th century)
Tune: Cradle Song. Carols for Choir 1, #2*



Story Luke chapter 2:8-14

Carol 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!”**

Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788). Tune: Mendelssohn.. TiS 303

Story Luke chapter 2:15-19



Carol Jingle Bells (NZ version)

Dashing to the bay,
in a Kombi campervan,
Christmas at the beach -
the family's master plan.
Dad is at the wheel,
and Mum sits by his side,
We kids are squabbling in the back as we go for a ride.

*Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,
Christmas in New Zealand on a sunny summer's day! Hay!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to have a Kiwi holiday!*

Soon we're at the beach,
our rellies shout G'day!
We swap our Chrissie prezzies.
A boogie board hooray!
We change into our togs,
and to the sea we run
What a joy to splash and swim, summer's so much fun!

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells ...!



Prayers

We pray for peace in our homes
and throughout the world tonight.

We pray for people like Mary and Joseph
who are in search of food and shelter
and for those trying to help them.

We pray for children
who will be born tonight and for their families.

We pray that we will be a gift to others this Christmas.
Amen.

Offertory Carol

**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!**

** During this hymn A collection will be taken up,
thank you for your generosity.*

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.



**God loves 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: I. Watts (1674-1748) (based on Ps. 98). Tune: Antioch, G. F. Handel (1685-1759). WOV 224

Blessing

Carol

**We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.**

**Let's all do a little clapping,
Let's all do a little clapping,
Let's all do a little clapping
And spread Christmas cheer.**

**Let's all do a little jumping,
Let's all do a little jumping,
Let's all do a little jumping
And spread Christmas cheer.**

**Let's all do a little swaying,
Let's all do a little swaying,
Let's all do a little swaying
And spread Christmas cheer.**

**We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.**

Hymns reproduced with permission under CCLI licence 637264

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays,
and a safe and Happy New
Year from everyone at
St Matthew-in-the-City*



If you want to know more about St Matthew's take a look at our website 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.

Christmas Eve service times:

10.30pm Carols for Christmas with Auckland City Brass
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day service times:

8.00am Christmas Eucharist
10am Christmas Sung Eucharist

The **Parish Office** is now closed; reopening Monday 13 January 2025.

Sunday services on 29 December, 5, 12, 19, 26 January at 10am only.

Sunday 8am services resume on February 2, 2025

Wednesday 12.20pm services resume on February 5, 2025

Vicar: Rev Richard Bonifant richard@stmatthews.org.nz

Priest Associate: Rev Cate Thorn cate@stmatthews.org.nz

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