

St Michael's Church Brentor

Christmas Day Carol Service



Minister: I bring you good news of great joy: a saviour has been born to us.

All: **A saviour has been born to us. Alleluia.**

Minister: Unto us a child is born.

All: **Unto us a son is given. Alleluia.**

Minister: He is Christ the Lord.

All: **We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

We sing our first carol in honour of His birth: **Joy To The World**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is 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 world, the Saviour reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, 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.**

Minister: Today we recall that all over the world there are people gathering together to celebrate the birth of a baby over two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, as foretold by the prophet Micah:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Opening Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for our community here at Brentor, for family and friends, for those who show kindness towards us, for God’s creation in all its splendour and for those who work the land and care for all creatures that on earth do dwell. Thank you too that we can freely gather to worship you, and ask for your blessing on Christians worldwide. God of all, we ask for your healing today too – that the trials of this year may soon be over. Bless your creation this Christmas and in the New Year. May we be helped to share in your great work of bringing love and healing and justice to the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

Minister: Great is the Lord who watches over me and over all of creation.

We listen to a chant: ***‘Great Is The Lord’ ...***

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1:

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a maiden pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."



We listen our next carol – written by the Revd Sabine Baring Gould, once rector of Lewtrenchard, close by [The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came.](#)

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

**"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!**

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Let us pray:

As we kneel as the shepherds did before the newborn Christ-child,
we open our hearts in penitence and faith.
Lord God, you were born for our salvation.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
You came as a saviour to bring wholeness and peace.
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
You came to bring light into the darkness of our lives.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
May God who so loved the world that he sent His son
to be our Saviour forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We listen to 'Once Upon A Moonlit Night' ...

**A reading from the Gospel of Luke,
Chapter 2:**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she



gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

We listen to our next piece: 'Mary's Song' ...

And we and ponder upon this young woman who gave birth to the Messiah in a stable ...

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

We listen now to a song: *A Light Has Come In To The World ...*

*It is the song of a shepherd boy in response to the news from the angels:
'A light has come in to the world – a light by whom all may be saved.
Shine on me, Lord, grant me grace.'*

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

*We listen now to: **The Magi's Song** which tells of them travelling by the light of a star to see the King of Kings ...*

Homily

*We listen now to a carol: **O Holy Night***

We declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.



We hear our final carol: **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;**

**CHORUS: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest;**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.**

A reading: '*Christmas*' by John Betjeman

Blessing :

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the magi,
the obedience of Mary and Joseph,
and the peace of the Christ-child be ours this Christmas:
and the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon us all now and forever, **Amen.**

