



ENGLISH ADVENT AND
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023, 7.30 PM
HORBOURG PROTESTANT CHURCH



We are delighted that you have come to join with us today as we celebrate Christ's birth in words and music.
Please **stand** for the carols, **sing joyfully**, and **sit** for the readings and prayers.

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME

CAROL **ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

(The **first** verse will be sung by the **Music Group** and we all sing verses 2 and

Music Group 1. *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.



2. **He came down to earth from heaven** 3. **And our eyes at last shall see him**
Who is God and Lord of all, **Through his own redeeming love,**
And his shelter was a stable, **For that child so dear and gentle**
And his cradle was a stall **Is our Lord in Heaven above**
With the poor and mean and lowly **And he leads his children on**
Lived on earth our Saviour holy. **To the place where he is gone.**

BIDDING PRAYERS

Welcome to you all in the name of Christ.

We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son.

Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song,
let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption,
and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE.

God of time and eternity, fulfil your promise of peace. May the people who walked in darkness see a glorious light. Having known sorrow in the past, may they taste joy in the coming days.

Send your Son, the prince of peace. May he return to bring justice and peace for all the nations of the world. Amen.

(And we respond) **AMEN**

MUSIC GROUP *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

READING Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom Isaiah 9, verses 2, 6 and 7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

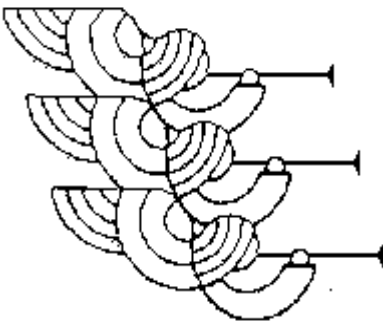
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

CAROL

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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| <p>1. 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.</p> | <p>2. 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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.</p> |
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3. **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.**



READING The Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary St Luke 1, verses 26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

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. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Then the angel left her.



CAROL

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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| <p>1. 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.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> | <p>2. O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> |
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READING

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

St Luke 2, verses 1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child,

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them.

CAROL

AWAY IN A MANGER

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky look'd down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.**



READING

The shepherds go to the manger

St Luke 2, verses 8-16

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 the 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.

CAROL

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.**
- 2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind),
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind'.**
- 3. '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.**
- 4. The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.'**
- 5. Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:**
- 6. 'All glory be to God on high, and on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease.'**



COLLECTION During the collection, the Music Group will sing
The Carol of the Bells.

READING The wise men are led by the star to Jesus St Matthew 2, verses 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “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.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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.



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CAROL **JOY TO THE WORLD!**

1. **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.

2. **Joy to the earth! 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.

3. **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.

READING

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation St John 1, verses 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

MUSIC GROUP *Sing a very merry Christmas*

PRAYERS**A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PLACES OF CONFLICT**

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia
today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of
weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to
them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide
their decision.

We also pray for an end to the ongoing hostilities in the Middle East.
We evoke the prayer of a Palestinian Christian.

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli
but pray rather for ourselves,
that we might not divide them in our prayers,
but keep them both together in our hearts.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
wherever war and violence is found in these troubled times,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

ALL **Amen.**

PRAYER



THANK YOU LORD

Let us pray.

Thank you Lord, for bringing us together today for a moment of calm in the middle of our preparations for Christmas. We thank you for giving us the reason to celebrate Christmas, and to rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, your Son, Jesus Christ.

We pray for our families, our friends and those that we love. We pray for those who have come to live in Alsace during the year and for those who have moved away, either to start a new life in another country or who have returned to their homeland.

We pray for those who are finding life particularly hard at this time of year.

We remember especially the sick, the lonely and the bereaved.

We remember before you those known to us personally who are in pain or suffering at this time and those whose loved ones have died since we were last together.

We pray for peace in this troubled world, and pray that you will guide the leaders of the nations in the ways of peace and tolerance.

We pray for ourselves, and ask your forgiveness for our sins.

Help us to think before we speak, help us to take responsibility for our actions and help us to be sensitive to the feelings of those around us.

Help us to consider the needs of others before our own.

Help us to be flexible in our thinking, and to embrace new experiences in a positive manner.

For all the good things that you give us, we thank you Lord.

Be with us in the good times and support us in the not-so-good times.

Give us the strength we need to face difficult situations, comfort in sadness, and show us the way when we don't know what to do.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(We say together) AMEN

CAROL

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

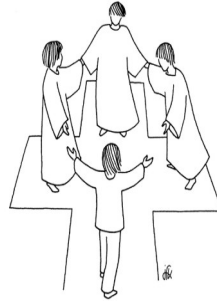


- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Douce nuit, sainte nuit. Tout se tait! Plus un bruit!
Ignoré du monde entier, entouré des seuls bergers,
Pour sauver la terre, un enfant nous est né.**
- 3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund, da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Christ in deiner Geburt, Christ in deiner Geburt.**

(Please remain standing)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

NOTRE PÈRE

**Notre Père qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne
que ta volonté soit faite
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce
jour.**

**Pardonne-nous nos offenses
comme nous pardonnons aussi
à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartient :
le règne la puissance et la gloire,
Aux siècles des siècles. Amen.**

ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the Lord,
the God of Israel,
he has come to his people
and set them free.

Light has sprung up for the righteous
and joyful gladness
for those who are true-hearted.
Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.



CAROL

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

- 1. 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.***
- 2. God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten not created.
*O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***
- 3. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, in the highest.
*O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

BENEDICTION

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 remain with you always,
Amen.

Amen.

CAROL

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS



- 1. We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!**

The Clergy leave the Church.

- 2. Oh bring us a figgy pudding
Oh bring us a figgy pudding
Oh bring us a figgy pudding
And a cup of good cheer
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!**



The Music Group leaves the Church.

- 3. We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
So bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!**



*The congregation leave the Church
starting from the front one pew at a time.*

A very happy and blessed Christmas to you all, and all those who you love.