

St Benedict's Bennetts End and St Mary's Apsley End

Morning Prayer with Carols

to celebrate

St John the Evangelist

and

The First Sunday of Christmas



Sunday 27 December 2020

10am

Led by Bob Day

with

Melanie Henley on flute

WELCOME in person and via 'Zoom'!

Link to [weekly bulletins](#) for St M's & St B's

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You laid the foundation of the earth
and the heavens are the work of your hands. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Carol 1: It came upon a midnight clear: v 1 2 & 5

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lonely plains,
they bend on heavenly wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
5. For lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing!

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Bob to say the odd verses; all to say the even verses

Psalm 105.1-11

Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

1. O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2. Sing to him, sing praises,
and tell of all his marvellous works.**
3. Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.
- 4. Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually.**
5. Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6. O seed of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.**
7. He is the Lord our God;
his judgements are in all the earth.
- 8. He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise that he made for a thousand generations:**
9. The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10. Which he established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,**
11. Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be the portion of your inheritance.'

Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

*God of our earthly pilgrimage,
feed your Easter people with the bread of heaven
that we may hunger and thirst for righteousness
until we reach our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

Scripture Reading

1st Reading by Enitan Onabamiro

A reading from the first letter of John Ch.1

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life

this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us

we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Carol 2 Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey,
on the dusty road,
got to keep on plodding onwards
with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey
through the winter's night;
don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

*Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
follow that star tonight, Bethlehem,
Bethlehem.*

*Little donkey, little donkey,
had a heavy day,
little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way.*

Little donkey, little donkey,
on the dusty road,
there are wise men, waiting for a
sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey,
there's a star ahead;
it will guide you, little donkey,
to a cattle shed.

*Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
follow that star tonight, Bethlehem,
Bethlehem.*

*Little donkey, little donkey,
had a heavy day,
little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way.*

Bob to say the odd verses; all to say the even verses

Refrain:

*To us a child is born,
to us a son is given.*

1. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
upon them the light has dawned.
2. **You have increased their joy and given them great gladness;
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.**
3. For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them;
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
4. **For to us a child is born and to us a son is given,
and the government will be upon his shoulder.**
5. And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;
the Mighty God;
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
6. **Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,**
7. Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.
8. **From this time forth and for evermore;
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

*To us a child is born,
to us a son is given.*

2nd Reading by Sue Jakeman via Zoom

John 21: 19b-end

After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?'

When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?'

Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!'

So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die.

Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.

But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Talk by Bob Day:

John The Evangelist,

Carol 3 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

The Benedictus

Bob to say the odd verses; all to say the even verses

Refrain:

*To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.*

1. Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
2. **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**
3. Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
4. **To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**
5. This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6. **Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**
7. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8. **To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**
9. In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10. **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

Refrain:

*To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.*

Prayers

Intercessions by Katherine Howlett

Silence may be kept.

Carol 4 Angels from the realms of glory: vs 1,2,3 & 5.

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship,

Christ, the new-born King.

Come and worship,

worship Christ, the new-born king

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship,

Christ, the new-born King.

Come and worship,

worship Christ, the new-born king

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Come and worship,

Christ, the new-born King.

Come and worship,

worship Christ, the new-born king

5 Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Ev'ry knee shall then bow down:

Come and worship,

Christ, the new-born King.

Come and worship,

worship Christ, the new-born king

The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Notices

Link to [weekly bulletins](#) for St M's & St B's

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