

St Matthew-in-the-City



# **Carols for Christmas**

**24 December 2016 10.30pm**

Nau mai, haere mai; a warm welcome to St Matthew-in-the-City.  
We are 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.

## **ORGAN PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**     Rev Cate Thorn

**READING:** *"The Living Christ"* by Joy Cowley

### **1     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. TiS 316*

## **2 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.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born."**

**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: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

*Tune: Melody by Franz X. Gruber (1787-1863). TiS 311*

**READING: *Luke 2:8-20***

### **3 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. TiS 299*

## **4 THE SUNSET SKY FLAMES RED AND GOLD**

**The sunset sky flames red and gold,  
a royal birth so long foretold  
is celebrated, as a star  
appears as signal from afar.**

**Day breaks in splendour on the earth,  
a special day, a special birth.  
We join with angel choirs to sing  
a song of welcome to our king.**

**Pohutukawa's crimson bloom,  
gold wayside flowers, lupin, broom,  
glow round our coasts, across the land:  
a canvas painted by God's hand.**

**We give our presents, greet our friends;  
the warmth of love to all extends.  
This is a time of goodwill, peace,  
when fears diminish, hopes increase.**

**Now, like the Kings who travelled far,  
whose faith was focused on that star,  
may we with joy commit our days  
to serve the King whose name we praise.**

*Words: Jocelyn Marshall  
Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur, melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)  
as adapted from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582  
harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934). TiS 194*

## **5 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: verses 1-2: Traditional Carol (19th century);  
verse 3: attr. to John Thomas McFarland*

*Tune: Cradle Song, melody by William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)*

**READING: “Advent Poem” by Enuma Okoro**

## **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*

## **6 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT**

**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 all  
from heaven’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

**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 lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with tasks of love and life  
the world has laboured long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of song;  
and folk, at war with folk, hear not  
the love-song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, set forth Christ’s life  
and hear the angels sing.**

**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 all the world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876). Tune: Noel. Voices United 185*

## **7 THE STARS DANCED, THE ANGELS SANG**

The stars danced, the angels sang  
the night God came to earth.  
The whole vault of heaven rang  
to celebrate his birth.

*We will dance, we will sing,  
we will praise our heav'nly King at his birth!*

Mary, his mother smiled  
to see her babe new born.  
Shepherds came hurrying,  
left their flocks forlorn.

*We will dance, we will sing,  
we will praise our heav'nly King at his birth!*

Wise men who saw his star,  
knew their Lord was here,  
came with their offerings,  
incense, gold and myrrh.

*We will dance, we will sing,  
we will praise our heav'nly King at his birth!*

We too will give to him  
gifts of love and praise.  
Dance for him, sing for him,  
rejoice in him always.

*We will dance, we will sing,  
we will praise our heav'nly King at his birth!*

*Words and Music Barbara Gillard. Carol our Christmas 43*

## **8 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). WOV 224*

**READING: “A Blessing Called Sanctuary”  
by Jan Richardson**

## **9 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. . .*

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:**

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

*Words: possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)  
Tune: Adeste Fideles. TiS 304*

## **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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If you want to know more about St Matthew's  
take a look at our website [www.stmatthews.org.nz](http://www.stmatthews.org.nz),  
like us on Facebook,  
follow our vicar on Twitter @RevHelenJacobi and @StMatthewsNZ .  
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 9 January 2017.

Sunday services on 1, 8, 15, 22 January at 10am only;  
Sunday January 29 and onwards 8am and 10am.

Wednesday lunch time service resumes on  
Wednesday February 1 at 12.20pm.

Vicar: Rev Helen Jacobi [helen@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:helen@stmatthews.org.nz)  
Priest Associate: Rev Cate Thorn [cate@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:cate@stmatthews.org.nz)  
Parish Office phone: (09) 379 06 25

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS