

*St Matthew-in-the-City*  
*Nativity Service*  
*for Children*



*Christmas Eve 2014 7 pm*

# *Welcome*

*Rev Helen Jacobi, Vicar*

## *Carol*

## *Carol Our Christmas*

**Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;  
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.  
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,  
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.**

**Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,  
water and river and lure of the beach.  
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,  
sing a nativity summer can reach!**

**Shepherds and musterers move over hillsides,  
finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn;  
wise ones make journeys whatever the season,  
searching for signs of the truth to be born.**

**Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,  
made in the moment a woman gives birth;  
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,  
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.**

*Words: Shirley Murray. Tune: Reversi, Colin Gibson. AA 9*

*Leader:* Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

*All:* **Come, let us worship God,  
source of life and light.**

*Leader:* Christ was born and dwells among us,  
full of grace and truth.

*All:* **Come, let us worship God,  
source of life and light.**

## *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

*Leader:* This Christmas the light of Christ  
comes among us.

*All:* **May we live in the way of the Light.  
Come, let us worship God,  
source of life and light.**



## *The Christmas Story*

*featuring Martin Putt, Clare Battersby, Jasper and Grace;  
written and directed by Miryam Jacobi  
with everyone participating!*



*Stay seated.*

## *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.**

**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. Carols for Choir 1, #2*

*Stay seated.*

## *Carol 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  
has 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.'**

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715). Tune: Winchester Old. TIS 299*



*Stay seated.*

## *Carol                      The First Nowell*

**The first nowell the angel did say  
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep;  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the king of Israel!**

**Then wise men came from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the king of Israel!**

*Words: Anon., English c. 17th cent.*

*Tune: The First Nowell, English traditional melody. TiS 301*



*Stay seated.*

*Carol                      Greetings, Little Child*

**Greetings, little child of Bethlehem!  
Greetings to the child in every mother's arms!  
Welcome to each other, and all we wish to honour.  
Greetings, little child of Bethlehem!**

**Bless the one who came to planet Earth.  
He grew up and spread Good News to all he met.  
All the children loved him,  
he talked with them and held them.  
Bless the one who came to planet Earth.**

**Happy Christmas, child of Bethlehem.  
Happy Christmas all around the world today.  
Greetings to each culture, and every living creature.  
Happy Christmas, child of Bethlehem!**

*Words: Cecily Sheehy. Tune: Greetings, Cecily Sheehy*



## *Prayers*

We give thanks for the angels in our lives  
who bring us good news and help us.

We give thanks for the shepherds in our lives,  
the people who work hard and look after our needs.

We give thanks for the people in our lives  
who bring us gifts and treats like the three kings.

We give thanks for our families who love us.

We pray for people who are sad  
or missing people they love this Christmas time.  
Help us to help them.

## *Lord's Prayer*

As Christ teaches us 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.**

# Offertory Carols

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

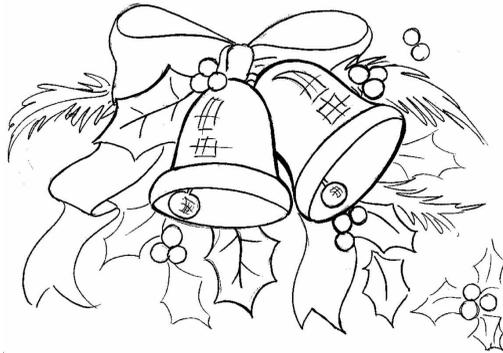
*Joy to the World!*

**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*



*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:**

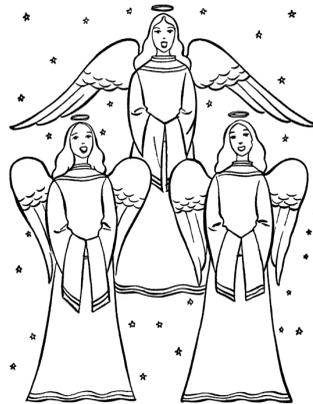
***O come, let us adore him . . .***

**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 for our salvation  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father  
now in flesh appearing:**

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



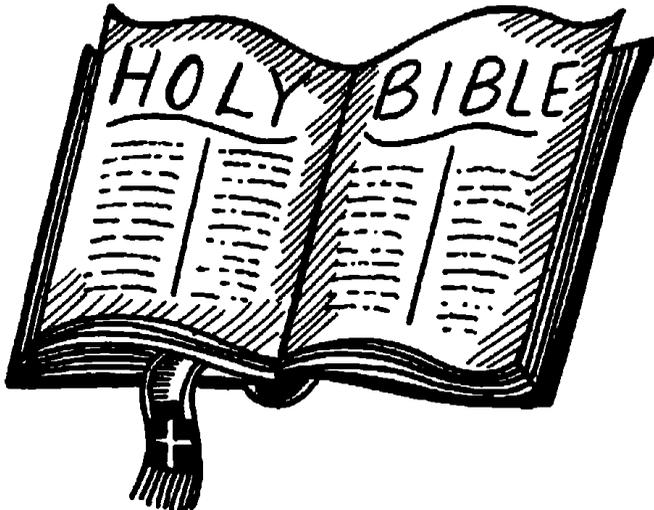
*Words: possibly by John F. Wade (c. 1711-1786)  
Tune: Adeste Fideles. TiS 304*

## *Blessing*

Tonight we are excited:  
may God bless us with wonder.

Tonight we are expectant:  
may God bless us with gladness.

Tonight we are on tiptoe:  
may God bless us with new birth,  
in the name of God, Creator,  
Redeemer and Giver of Life.  
Amen.



**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 today's celebrations.

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.

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.

The Parish Office is now closed until Monday 12 January 2015.

Sunday services on 28 December and 4 January at 10am only;  
Sunday, January 11 and onwards 8am and 10am.

Wednesday lunch time service resumes on Wednesday,  
February 4 at 12.20pm.

Vicar: Rev Helen Jacobi [helen@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:helen@stmatthews.org.nz)

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