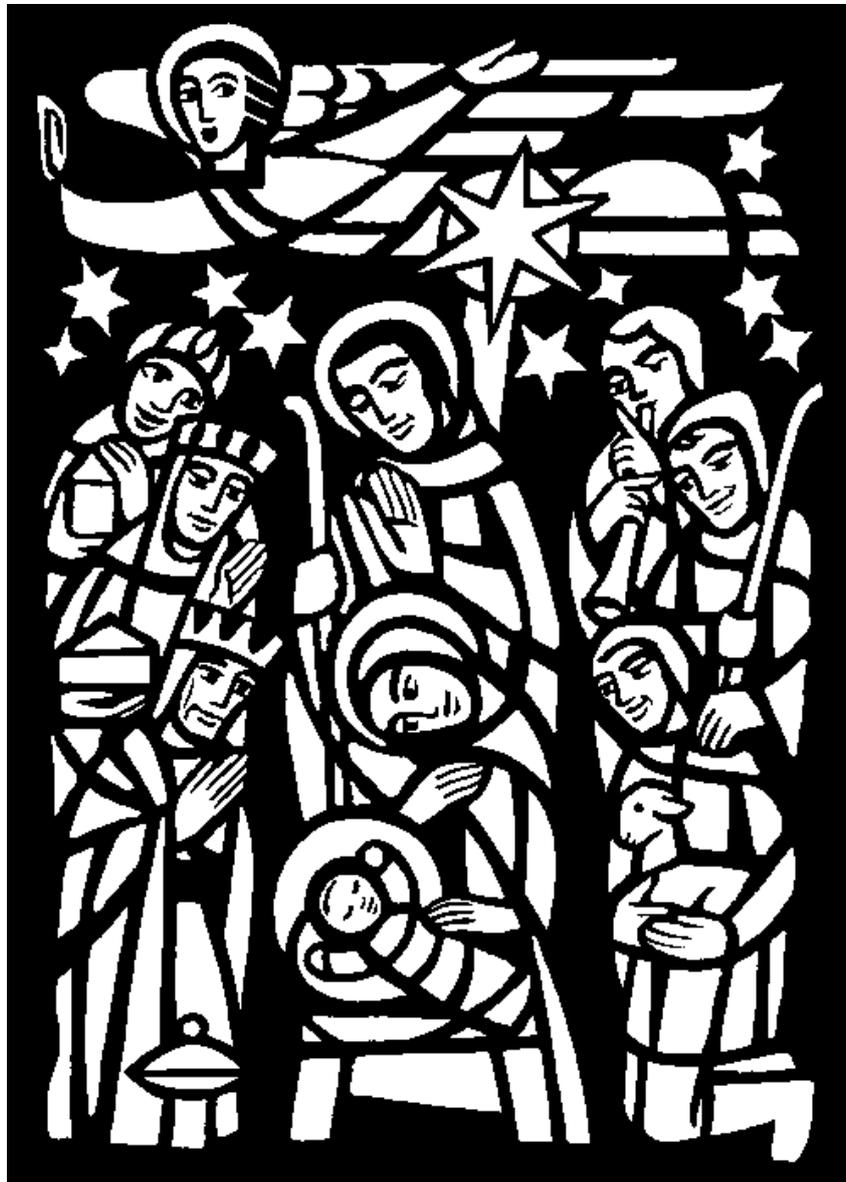


The United Benefice of
Warton and Borwick with Yealand

Christmas Carol Service



(broadcast on Friday 18th December 2020)

A very warm welcome to everyone who is joining us online via our YouTube channel.

Officiating Minister: The Revd Robin Figg, Vicar

Music before the service

Widerstehe doch der Sunde *J S Bach (1685-750)*

Organist: Keith Worsman. Arranged for organ by Keith Worsman



Believing | **Living** | **Sharing**

The service is introduced by the Vicar.

Carol Once in royal David's city

Soloist for verse 1 Lauren Molteni

Soloist 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.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)

Dear friends, we have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, especially all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of God, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**All 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 that 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.**

First Reading

Genesis 3.8-14 *The Fall* Read by Poppy Brantley

Carol This is the Truth from above *English Traditional* Soloist: Hannah Lawrence

Second Reading

Genesis 22.15-18 *The promise to Abraham* Read by Chris Hopwood

Carol People look east

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
he for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

/ continued over

Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Sung by St Martin's Voices.

Third Reading

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 *The Prophecy of the Messiah's birth* Read by Clare Hunter

Carol O Holy Night *John Sullivan Dwight (1813-93), based on Placide Cappeau (1808-77)* Sung by Rhian Burford

Fourth Reading

Micah 5.-4 *The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem* Read by Sue Hopwood

Carol 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 men 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 with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-93). Sung by St Martin's Voices.

Fifth Reading

Luke 1.26-38 *The Annunciation to Mary* Read by Annette MacKenzie

Carol The Joys Seven *Traditional* Sung by Martha, Daisy, Laruen, Poppy,
Hannah, Madeleine

Sixth Reading

Luke 2.1-7 *The birth of Jesus* Read by Gillian Turner

Carol Night of Silence / Silent Night *Daniel Kantor (b.1960)* Sung by the Junior
Choir

Seventh Reading

Luke 2.8-16 *The shepherds go to the manger* Read by Noeline Clarke

Carol Hark, the herald angels sing

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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen 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.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Sung by St Martin's Voices

Eighth Reading

Matthew 2.-11 *The magi are led by the star to Jesus* Read by Frank Senior

Carol *Star in the East* Reginald Heber (1783-1826) Soloist: Madeleine Freeman

Ninth Reading

John 1.1-14 *The incarnation of the Word of God* Read by Janet Thompson

Carol *Like a candle flame* Graham Kendrick (b.1950) Sung by Hannah, Martha, Madeleine and Rhian

Collect and Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him,
and welcome him again into our hearts;
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Carol 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!
Your sweetest 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, and wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Sung by St Martin's Voices.

We wish you a happy
and peaceful Christmas.



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