



Church of The Most Holy Redeemer, Billerica
Parish Carol Service
20th December 2020



Hodie *Britten*

From the Ceremony of Carols

O Come O Come Emmanuel *15th Century French*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, thou wisdom from on high,
and order all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times, didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Reading 1: Genesis 3: 1-3, 8-15
"The Disobedience of Man"

The Angel Gabriel *trad. Arr. Pettman*

Reading 2: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7
"The Future King"

Pastorale from Christmas Concerto *Corelli*

Reading 3: Poem *Betjeman*
"Advent 1955"

O Little Town of Bethlehem *Brooks*

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.

Reading 4: Luke 1: 26-35, 38
"The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary"

There is no Rose *Wright*

Reading 5: Luke 2: 1, 3-7
"The shepherds go to the manger"



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O Holy Night *Adam/Dwight*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

*Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.*

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

Sheep may safely graze *Bach*

Natus Est Immanuel *Bullard*

Reading 6: Poem *L'Engle*
"O Simplicitas"

Away in a manger *Anon*

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 thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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 fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Reading 7: Matthew 2: 1-11

"The wise men are led by the star to Jesus."

Ding Dong Merrily on High *trad arr. Wood*

Reading 8: John 1: 1-14

"St John unfolds the great mystery of the
Incarnation."

All Bells in Paradise *Rutter*

Final Prayer and Blessing

O Come all ye faithful *Wade/Oakley*

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 of God,
light of light,
lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: