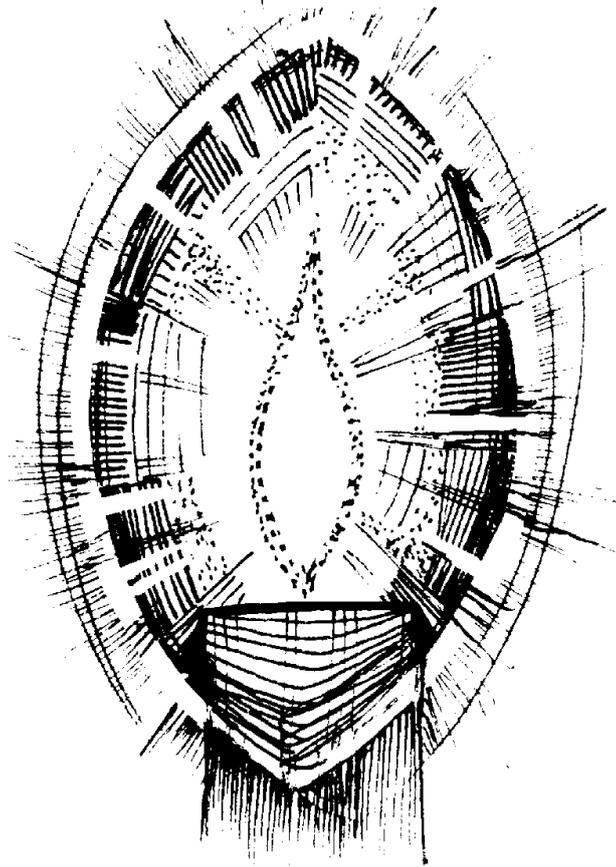


Huddersfield Carols by Candlelight



A light shines in the darkness



**We encourage you to enjoy
this service by candle light if
you can do so safely. Please
join in with the carols and
prayers.**

Carol

The first and second verses are sung by the choir:

*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 who seemed so helpless
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;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Opening Prayers & Introduction

*The welcome and opening prayers are led by the Vicar of
Huddersfield, the Rev'd Canon Rachel Firth.*

Silence is kept

The glory of the Lord is being revealed
and we shall see it together

*As the candles on the Advent wreath you may wish to light
your own candles.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night
and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not darkness to you,
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

Choir Carol: E'en so Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Reading – Genesis Chapter 3

The Fall

Read by Alan Eastwood , Church Warden, Huddersfield Parish Church

A candle is lit.

Carol

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 the earth!
For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His Heav'n.
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 – Isaiah Chapter 9

The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth

Read by Cllr Nigel Patrick, Mayor of Kirklees

A candle is lit.

Choir Carol: The Angel Gabriel – old Basque Carol

Reading - Luke Chapter 1

An angel comes to Mary

Read by Jon Hammond, DL

Carol

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 over its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise of mortal strife
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 give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Reading – Luke 1

Mary visits Elizabeth and sings God's praises

Read by Chidochemoyo, SU Equalities officer, Huddersfield University

OR

Mitchell Wright of HPC Choir

A candle is lit.

**Choir Carol: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree –
traditional Somerset Folk Song**

Reading – Matthew 1

The Birth of Jesus

Read by Tamatsu Mutasa, Huddersfield Parish Church

A candle is lit.

Sermon

Carol

**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 off of human kind.**

**"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 swathing bands,
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 on earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease."**

Reading – Luke 2

The Shepherds and the Angels

Read by Verity Quarmby of HPC Choir

A candle is lit.

Choir Carol: In the bleak midwinter – Harold Darke

Reading - John Chapter 1

God made man in Jesus Christ

– the Word of God

Read by Rev'd Amanda Ogilvie-Berry, Huddersfield Parish Church

A candle is lit.

Choir Carol: *El desembre congelat:*

Traditional Catalan carol. Arranged Graham Coatman.

The Prayers

The prayers are introduced and we kneel if able.

Jesus, light of the world,
Shine in the darkness of our world.

At the end of the prayers we say together:

**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.**

Carol

Hark, the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark, the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. *Refrain:*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain:*

Blessing & Dismissal

Let us bless the living God:

He was born of your servant Mary,
your glory revealed in a baby boy,

worshipped by the angels,
proclaimed among the nations,

believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and forever. Amen

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Mary and Joseph,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this
Christmas; and the blessing....

Go in faith and joy
**We will carry God's light and love
into the world. Amen.**

***Wishing you a Christmas and
New Year of peace and joy,
from the Vicar,
Churchwardens and all who
worship at St Peter's Parish
Church, Huddersfield***