

**Candlelight Carols and Readings
for
Christmas 2025**



**Sunday 21 December 2025
4.00pm**

A special welcome if you are visiting St Peter's for the first time, we hope you will feel thoroughly at home

Welcome, Prayers and Lighting the Advent candles

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

to live in his marvellous light.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to St Peter's church today.

We have come together in the presence of God our Father to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church Christ came to build.

We remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who don't yet know the Lord Jesus.

These prayers and praises we sum up in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**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

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:

Bible Reading 1 - Genesis 3:1-4

Adam & Eve fall to the temptations that beset us all

Carol

INTO THE DARKNESS of this world,
Into the shadows of the night;
Into this loveless place You came,
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
And made these hearts Your home.
Into the darkness once again –

Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with Your love
To make us whole,
Come with Your light
To lead us on,
Driving the darkness
Far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Into the longing of our souls,
Into these heavy hearts of stone,
Shine on us now Your piercing light,
Order our lives and souls aright,
By grace and love unknown,
Until in You our hearts unite –
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place,
Till all the earth declares Your praise
And Your great mercies own.
Now let Your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

(Last Chorus)
Come in Your glory,
Take Your place,
Jesus, the Name above all names,
We long to see You face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Saying Sorry to God

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself
and cleanse us from all our sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Carol

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS TO YOU WE BRING,
Alleluia!
News of great joy that angels sing,
Alleluia!

Tender mercy He has shown us,
Joy to all the world;
For us God sends His only Son,
Alleluia!

Let earth's dark shadows fly away,
Alleluia!
In Christ has dawned an endless day,
Alleluia!

Now God with us on earth resides,
Alleluia!
And heaven's door is open wide,
Alleluia!

Bible Reading 2 - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Isaiah foretells the birth of the child who will be known as the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The lighting of the Christmas Candles

Carol

THE VIRGIN MARY HAD A BABY BOY,

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they said that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer.
Oh, yes! believer.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born,
And proclaiming Him the Saviour Jesus.

The wise men saw where the baby was born,
The wise men saw where the baby was born,
The wise men saw where the baby was born,
And they saw that His name was Jesus.

Bible Reading 3 - Luke 1:26-33

The Angel Gabriel tells Mary of the forthcoming birth conceived by the Holy Spirit

Talk

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 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 Immanuel!

Bible Reading 4 - Matthew 1:18-24

The Birth of Jesus

Carol

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say,
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this:
He hath opened heaven's door
And man is blessed forever more.
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave,

Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

Bible Reading 5 - John 1:1-14

John declares Jesus as the Light of the World

Carol in which the collection will be taken

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 a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

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 men 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.'*

Blessing

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