



Wednesday 11 December 6.30pm



## Community Carol Service

*A carol service for all who live and work around Trafalgar Square and in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields*

Officiant  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher  
Revd Angela Sheard

Directed by  
Polina Sosnina  
Organist

Mark Zang

With

The Choral Scholars and Junior Choir  
of St Martin-in-the-Fields

## Welcome

Our welcomers are available to assist with any of the following information. Toilets are available: please ask a welcomer.

**Welcome** whether you are joining us today in our building or online. Our cameras focus on those who are leading our service, but if you are in the building and would like to ensure that you are not caught on camera, please sit outside the pillars on the south of the church (to the right as you enter).

**Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, physical, sensory or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. Large print copies are also available. The hearing loop works best on the south side of the church. Step-free access to church is via the ramp on the north side, and to the Crypt and Hall via lifts in the NW porch and Pavilion.

**Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of church if needed to settle. We support breastfeeding in services; we also have a room allocated if preferred.

**Welcome** to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email [safeguarding@smitf.org](mailto:safeguarding@smitf.org).

**Welcome** to all heritages and experiences of race, culture and language. You are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

**Welcome** if you are agnostic or are from a faith tradition other than Christianity. Welcome if you are wary of faith. **Welcome** if you're exploring. **Welcome** if you are here to support someone else. If you would like to explore what you believe in a friendly and non-judgemental group, our Being With courses run throughout the year online and in the building. Email [beingwith@smitf.org](mailto:beingwith@smitf.org) for more details.

**We are glad you are here.**

Welcome Revd Sam Wells

Congregational Carol Once in Royal David's City  
*Nominated by Matthew Odgers*

*You are invited to stand.*

*Junior Choir*

- 1 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.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 **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.**
  
- 4 **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 (1818-1895)*

*Please sit.*

## Responses and Prayer *led by Jolley Gosnold*

God of Mary the teenager, visit any who long for a child. God of Joseph the dreamer, bless all who are learning to dream again. God of angels from the realms of glory, lift the hearts of those who have nowhere to call home. God of shepherds abiding in the fields, dwell with any on low wages, who long to fulfil their potential. God of kings and wise men, guide the hand of the powerful. God of Herod, send your grace upon all who live in the Holy Land today; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace on earth,

*All* **and good will to all people.**

Hush the noise!

*All* **Let us hear the angels sing.**

Unlock our hearts

*All* **so we can sing your love song to our weary world.**

**Amen.**

Choir Ding dong merrily on high *G. R. Woodward*

*You are invited to stand.*

Congregational Carol Joy to the world

*Nominated by Karen King*

**1 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.**

**2 Joy to the world, the saviour reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 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.**

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

*Please sit.*

First Reading T is for Tree  
*read by Ethan Agaba, member, St Martin-in-the-Fields  
congregation*

and the twig that holds a snail,  
its shell like a bauble's  
delicate glass;  
T is for the teacup-small nest  
cast high in the trunk  
by a pair of goldcrests;  
T is for tree and its topmost branches  
dressed with the silver  
lights of lichen;  
T is for the trickle of squirrels  
and the thin scales of each tree cone  
dreaming of freedom;  
T is for the tree's timeless jukebox  
playing robin song and  
chaffinch chatter;  
T is for the tiny tinsel of caterpillars  
metamorphosing  
into angels;  
T is for the tree which is a table  
serving dinner to beetle and weevil;  
T is for toadstools  
sprouting at the roots  
where the rabbit and mouse  
discover shelter;  
T is for the tree  
that draws us together.

*Isabel Galleymore*

*You are invited to stand.*

Congregational Carol God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
*Nominated by Akash Paun, Institute for Government*

**1** God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our saviour  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

**2** From God our heav'nly father,  
a blessed angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same;  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.  
*Refrain*

**3** The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks afeeding  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and went to Bethl'em straightway  
this blessed babe to find.  
*Refrain*

**4** Now to the Lord sing praises  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and charity  
each other now embrace.  
This holy tide of Christmas  
doth bring redeeming grace.  
*Refrain*

English Carol 18th Century

*Please sit.*

## Second Reading Luke 1: 26-38

*read by Paul Bagatelas, Managing Director and Head of International, Coutts*

### *The birth of Jesus foretold*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Choir The angel Gabriel *arr. Charles Edgar Pettman*

## Third Reading Luke 2: 1-7

*read by Neil Handley, Museum Curator, the College of Optometrists*

### *The birth of Jesus*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Congregational Carol Unto us is born a son  
*Nominated by Renata Cann*

- 1 Unto us is born a Son,  
King of choirs supernal:  
See on earth his life begun,  
Of lords the Lord eternal,  
Of lords the Lord eternal.**
- 2 Christ, from heav'n descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger:  
Ox and ass their Owner know  
Becradled in the manger,  
Becradled in the manger.**
- 3 This did Herod sore affray,  
And grievously bewilder;  
So he gave the word to slay,  
And slew the little childer,  
And slew the little childer.**
- 4 Of his love and mercy mild  
This the Christmas story:  
And O that Mary's gentle child  
Might lead us up to glory,  
Might lead us up to glory!**
- 5 O and A and A and O  
*Cum cantibus in choro,*  
*Let our merry organ go,*  
*Benedicamus Domino,*  
*Benedicamus Domino.***

*Puer nobis nascitur (Moosburg Gradual (1355/1360) via Piae Cantiones (1582), tr George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*



## Fourth Reading Luke 2: 8-20

*read by Alison Young, Assistant Store Manager, Kate Spade*

### *The shepherds and the angels*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choir The Angels' Song *Lucy Walker*

## Fifth Reading Matthew 2: 1-11

*read by Rachel Blake, MP, Cities of London and Westminster*

### *The visit of the wise men*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

*Continued*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*You are invited to stand.*

Congregational Carol We three kings  
*Nominated by Siân Conway, Group Administrator,  
St Martin-in-the-Fields*

- 1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***
- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again-  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign:  
*Chorus***
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, all people raising,  
worship him, God most high:  
*Chorus***

*Continued*

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:  
*Chorus***

**5 Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God, and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings alleluia,  
alleluia the earth replies:  
*Chorus***

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)

*Please sit.*

Reflection    Revd Angela Sheard

Choir    Sussex Carol    *David Willcocks*

Prayers    *led by George Calvocoressi*

The Lord's Prayer

***All* Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Notices

*You are invited to stand.*

*During the following carol a collection will be taken for the work of St Martin-in-the-Fields. You are welcome to donate using:*

- cash in the collection bags filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable*
- select amount and tap the card machines brought by the stewards*
- by texting COLLECTION to 70450 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message).*
- by scanning the QR code to the right with your phone*



Congregational Carol O come, all ye faithful  
*Nominated by Isobel Muir, National Gallery*

- 1 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!***
- 2 God of God,  
Light from light eternal,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*Chorus***
- 3 Lo, star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him frankincense and gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts' oblations;  
*Chorus***

*Continued*

4 **Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?**

***Chorus***

5 **Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
Glory to God  
all glory in the highest!**

***Chorus***

6 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given:  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**

***Chorus***

*John Francis Wade (1711-1786), Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

*Responses led by Maddie Naisbitt, Pastoral Assistant,  
St Martin-in-the-Fields*

We pray to you, Lord, to fill us with your joy, your love, and your peace. Let us never fail to find room for you, but come and abide in us, that we also may abide in you.

*All* **Son of Mary, Son of God, we have joined the worship of the angels;  
may we never lose sight of the glory of your love.**

*All* Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news of your birth;

*All* **strengthen us to live out that message of hope to the world.**

Prince of peace

*All* **bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.**

Glory to God in the highest heavens

*All* **and peace to all people on earth.**

Blessing *led by Revd Dr Sam Wells*

May the blessing of God almighty,  
doting Father, infant Son, rejuvenating Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you, now and always.

*All* **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary



*You are invited to join us in St Martin's Hall for mulled wine and mince pies. Turn right out of the church and enter via the glass pavilion. Stewards are on hand to point you in the right direction.*

## **Other Services during Advent and Christmas at St Martin's**

### **Sunday 15 December**

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 4.00pm

### **Tuesday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

Crib Family Service at 1.00pm

Parish Carol Service at 3.30pm

Parish Carol Service at 5.30pm

Midnight Mass at 11.00pm

### **Wednesday 25 December, Christmas Day**

Christmas Day Eucharist at 10.30am

*St Martin-in-the-Fields relies on the generosity of its congregations, visitors and others in continuing to support those experiencing homelessness, displacement and disadvantage in the parish and beyond, as well as ensuring that the iconic, music-filled buildings continue to be a blessing to all and for future generations.*

*If you were able to give during the service today, then thank you. If you missed that opportunity, one-off gifts can be made in the cash boxes at the back of church, giving £10 by texting COLLECTION to 70450 or by donating via the QR code.*



*If you don't carry cash, contactless card readers are available as you leave.*

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ  
Telephone: 020 7766 1100    [www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)    email: [clergyoffice@smitf.org](mailto:clergyoffice@smitf.org)

Copyright Details: Music reproduced using MRL 811779. Hymns reproduced using CCL 284612 and Calamus 1744.