

CAROL

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.*

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing between 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.*

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored, Christ, the
everlasting Lord, Late in time, behold Him
come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veil'd in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the
Incarnate Deity! Pleas'd 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;

BLESSING

Many thanks to: Nicole Maret - Organist

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Services:

Saturday 24 December 23.30 Christmas Midnight Communion
at The Big White Church, Routes des Creux (between Place Centrale & Savoleyres)

Sunday 25 December 18.00 Christmas Family Service
at The Little Church, Chemin du Temple (just up the hill from the Co-op)

English Speaking Church Verbier www.escoverbier.org

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS AND ARMY AIR CORPS ALPINE SKI CLUB



VERBIER CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2016

Led by Revd Andy Emerton

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate Christmas, we give thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son to be our Saviour; for the love of Christ in taking our human nature; for the humble birth in Bethlehem, and for the great rescue he has made possible for us and for all mankind.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate again the birth of Jesus, we pray that, like the angels, we may sing his praise; like the shepherds, we may know his glory; and like the wise men, we may offer him our worship, and give him the love and loyalty of our hearts; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
'Glory to God
In the highest!'
*O come, let us adore him (x 3)
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created;
*O come, let us adore him (x3)
Christ the Lord.*

FIRST READING Luke 1:26-38

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, favored 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 favor 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.

CAROL

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ, the Saviour is born

Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

SECOND READING Luke 2:1-15

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. 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 favors!" 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."

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 minds),

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To you and all mankind.

"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 heaven's Babe you there shall find

To human view display'd,

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, and thus

" Addressed their joyful Song:

"All glory be to God on high,

And to the earth be peace:

Good will henceforth from heav'n to men

Begin and never cease."

THIRD READING John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

TALK

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.