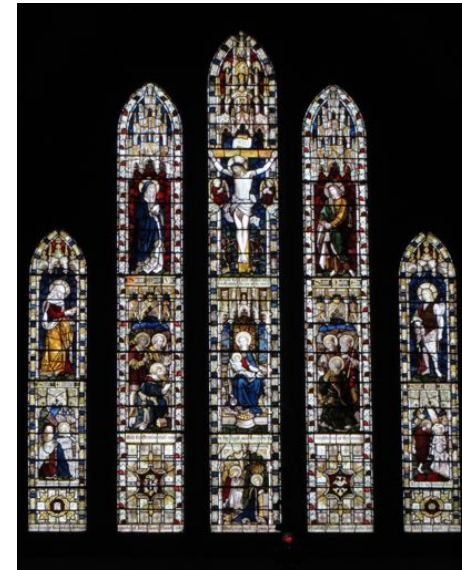


Welcome to St John's



Epiphany Carols

The Glory of
His Coming



Cantor: Arise, shine, for your light
has come

**All: The glory of the Lord is rising
upon you**

Welcome

Carol

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did
say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay:

in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that
was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a
star,
shining in the east, beyond
them far,

and to the earth it gave great
light,
and so it continued both day
and night.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

And by the light of that same
star,
three wise men came from
country far;

to seek for a king was their
intent,
and to follow the star
wherever it went.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

This star drew nigh to the
north-west,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,

and there it did both stop and
stay
right over the place where
Jesus lay.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

Then entered in those wise
men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,

and offered there in his
presence,
their gold and myrrh and
frankincense.

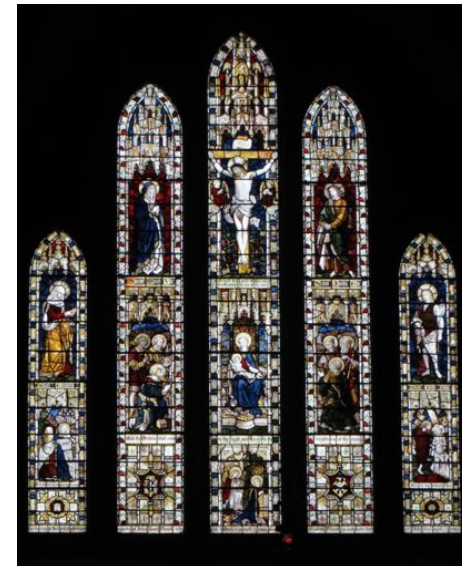
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly
Lord,

who with the Father we adore
and Spirit blest for evermore.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!*

From William Sandy's Christmas Carols,
Ancient and Modern (1833) alt.



The First Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-9

Cantor: Psalm 98

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Father we thank you for giving your son to the world and for revealing his glory not only to your chosen people, but also to nations who did not know you.

All: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

You sent him to proclaim good news to the afflicted, liberty to the captives, and to declare a time of grace, pardon and peace.

All: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

You led wise men by the light of a star, so that they might offer their gifts with their reverence and their worship.

All: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

You call men and women to follow after them, from the darkness into your wonderful light, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth, and in the depths.

All: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Enlightened by your grace and guided by your gospel, at the beginning of this year we offer to your Son the treasures of our faith, our hope, our love, and the worship of a faithful life.

All: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Nations shall come to your light.

**All: And kings to the brightness
of your rising!**

Cantor: We Three Kings

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.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, gladly
raising,
worship him, God most high.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter
perfume

Breathes a life of gathering
gloom;

sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold him
arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to heaven replies.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891), alt.

The Second Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Carol

In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on
snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long
ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold
him
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee
away

when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus
Christ.

Enough for him, whom
cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay:

enough for him, whom
angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

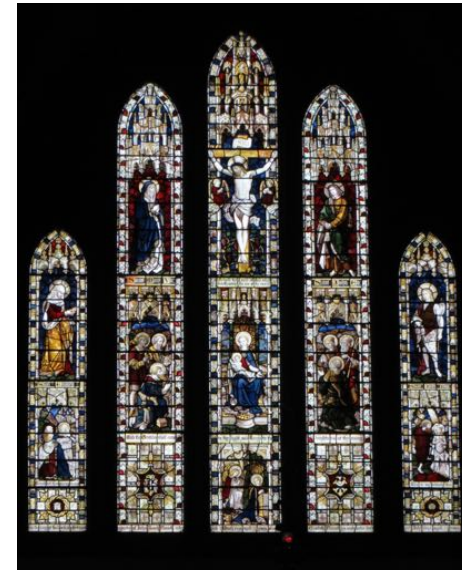
Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;

but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the belovèd with
a kiss

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him:
Give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)



The Third Reading

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Carol

O come, O come, Emmanuel

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 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.

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

O come, thou dayspring,
come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent
here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of
night,
and death's dark shadows
put to flight.

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

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.

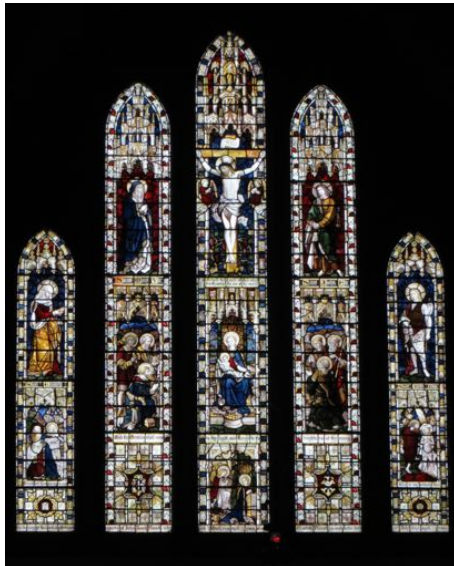
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to
thee,
O Israel.

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.

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

From the Great O Antiphons (12th-13th
century) trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)



Cantor: In the Lord be ever
thankful

The Renewal of the Covenant

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ,
reluctant to follow him
and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,
the formality and selfishness of our prayers,
our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace,
and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse
your gifts,
evade our responsibilities
and fail to be good stewards of
your creation:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us
unwilling to overcome evil with
good,
tolerant of injustice,
quick to condemn
and selfish in sharing your love with
others:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, forgive.

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your
great goodness;
according to the abundance of
your compassion
blot out my offences.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my
wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Give me again the joy of your
salvation
and sustain me with your gracious
spirit.**

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

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.

Beloved in Christ,
let us again claim for ourselves
this covenant which God has made
with his people,
and take upon us the yoke of Christ.

This means that we are content
that he appoint us our place and
work,
and that he himself be our reward.

Christ has many services to be
done:
some are easy, others are difficult;
some bring honour, others bring
reproach;

some are suitable to our natural
inclinations and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ and
please ourselves;

in others we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things
is given to us in Christ,
who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make this covenant
of God our own.

Let us give ourselves to him,
trusting in his promises and relying
on his grace.

Lord God, holy Father,
since you have called us through
Christ
to share in this gracious covenant,
we take upon ourselves with joy the
yoke of obedience

and, for love of you, engage
ourselves to seek and do your
perfect will.
We are no longer our own but
yours.

**All: I am no longer my own but
yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering:**

let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for
you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have
nothing;

I freely and wholeheartedly yield
all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed
God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.

So be it.
And the covenant now made on
earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

Hymn
**Christ, when for us you were
baptised**

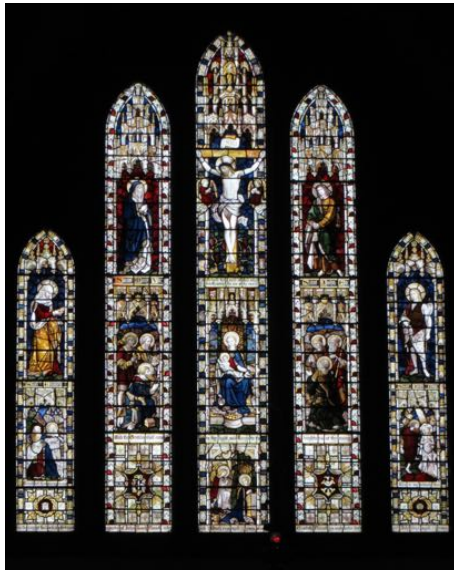
Christ, when for us you were
baptised

God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove,
and yet as urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son,
called you his servant too;
his kingdom you were called to
preach,
his holy will to do.

Straightaway and steadfast
until death
you then obeyed his call,
freely as Son of Man to serve,
and give your life for all.

Baptise us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service,
we
may perfect freedom find.



Reading

Poem

Prayers of Intercession

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our
heavenly Father.
The magi came from the east to
worship your Son:

Father, grant to Christians
everywhere the spirit of adoration.

Lord of glory.

All: Hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of
gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our
hearts and minds
at the beginning of this year.

Lord of glory,
All: Hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have
become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his
Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of
peace to your world.

Lord of glory,
All: Hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death.
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer.

Lord of glory,
All: Hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part.

Lord of glory,
All: Hear our prayer.

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.**

Litany of Dedication

**Gracious and everlasting God, you
have revealed the incarnation of
your Son by the bright shining of a
star, which the wise men saw, and
offered costly gifts in adoration;**

let the star of your kingdom shine in
our hearts, that we may give as our
treasure all that we are and all that
we possess, to your service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn

Christ, be our light

Longing for light, we wait in
darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to
you.

Make us your own, your holy
people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world
is troubled.
Longing for hope, many
despair.

Your word alone has power
to save us.
Make us your living voice.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for food, many are
hungry.
Longing for water, many still
thirst.

Make us your bread, broken
for others,
shared until all are fed.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.
Longing for warmth, many
are cold.

Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

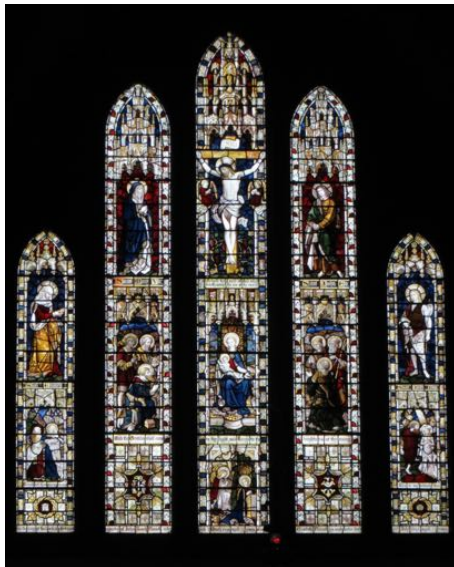
Many the gifts, many the
people,
many the hearts that yearn
to belong.

Let us be servants to one
another,
making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)
© Bernadette Farrell



To a troubled world.
All: Peace from Christ

To a searching world.
All: Love from Christ

To a dying world.

All: Hope from Christ

We proclaim Jesus as Lord

**All: And ourselves as your
servants for Jesus' sake.**

The Blessing

May God the Father, who led the
Wise Men by the shining of a star to
find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to
find the Lord.

Amen

May God the Son, who turned
water into wine at the Wedding
Feast at Cana, transform your lives
and make glad your hearts.

Amen

May God the Holy Spirit, who came
upon the beloved Son at his
baptism in the river Jordan, pour
out his gifts on you who have come
to the water of new birth.

Amen

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be upon you and remain with
you always.

Amen

Dismissal

We have seen his glory, the glory
revealed to all the nations. Go in
peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional

Cantor: Faithful Vigil Ended

