

ALL SAINTS WESTBURY
REFLECTIVE CAROL SERVICE – EMMANUEL GOD WITH US
SUNDAY 13 & WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2020

The Gathering

Organ Voluntary : Prelude on Once in Royal David's City *Dan Forrest* **4 mins**

CHOIR : Once in Royal David's City v. 1 solo, vv. 2 and 6 full choir **2.5 mins**

Welcome

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
And also with you.

Introduction

Two thousand years ago, a baby was born amongst people living with rules imposed by the government of the day: a world of shortages, outcasts, refugees and asylum seekers.
Jesus came into this world as a dependent, vulnerable and helpless baby, shielded by the care and protection of his parents.

At this Christmas time we hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass.

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us").
Matthew 1:23

CHOIR : O little town of Bethlehem **4 mins**

Reading 1: Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 The prophet promises the Saviour

Prayer: Everlasting Father, you sent your Son to live amongst us,
promised by the prophets of old;
As we celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
May he be for us a living hope:
Immanuel, God with us.
Amen.

CHOIR : There is no rose *Philip Stopford* **3.5 mins**

Reading 2: Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus

CHOIR: Silent night **3 mins**

Prayer : Everlasting Father,
In the stillness of the night
You sent your Son, the Word made flesh;
As we recognise his presence among us,
may he quiet our fears in uncertain times:
Immanuel, God with us.
Amen.

Reading 3: Luke 2:8-14 Good news of great joy

CHOIR: On Christmas night all Christians sing arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

2.5 mins

Prayer – Everlasting Father

You sent your Son, the child in the manger,

Worshipped by shepherds and angels;

As we draw near to the child in the manger

May he fill our hearts with joy and peace:

Immanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Space for Reflection...

Organ interlude on the chorale melody "Nun sei willkommen" Flor Peeters

3.5 mins

Nun sei uns willkommen, Jesus lieber herr, Weil du unser aller Herre bist.

Nun sei uns willkommen, lieber Herre, hier im Erdenreich betrübet sehre. (14th Cent German)

Now be welcome to us, dear Lord Jesus, because you are the Lord of us all.

Now be welcome to us, dear lord, here in the saddened earthly kingdom.

Short silence.

Prayers

Using the response:

Emmanuel,

Be with us now and hear our prayer.

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer (traditional form)

CHOIR: O Come All Ye Faithful (omit V.5)

4 mins

Final reading: John 1:1-5, 14 the Promise of light and life

The Blessing

Organ Voluntary : In dulci jubilo J.S. Bach

2 mins.

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