

# St Stephen's Church

with St Ann's Church, Dawson St



## **Carols by Candlelight A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Monday December 8, 2025**

**with**

**Rev'd Yvonne Ginnelly**

**Cuore Chamber Choir**

**Director Amy Ryan**

**Brass Quintet**

**Organists Siobhán Kilkelly, Simon Stroughair**

***Soloist Helen Blackmore***

Once in royal David's city  
stood 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

***CHOIR ONLY***

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.

***ALL STAND AND SING***

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all should be  
kind, obedient, good as he.

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.

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;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818 - 95)*

*All say together*

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 all 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, forever and ever. Amen

***First Lesson: Genesis 1: 1-3, 26-31a***

*God's purpose is that humanity  
should be the crown of his creation.*

Reader: Rachel Bennett: A parishioner

***Cuore Chamber Choir sings:***

*Resonant in laudibus*

Jacobus Gallus/Handl (1550-1591)

***Second Lesson: Genesis 22: 15-18***

*God promises Abraham  
that in his seed shall all nations be blessed.*

Reader: Emma Eliza Regan,

Member: The South Dublin Core Residents Association

***ALL STAND AND SING***

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee,  
in thy sweet humility.

Edward Caswall (1814-78)

***Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7***

*Isaiah foresees the Prince of Peace.*

Reader: Aisling Dunne, Irish Architectural Archive

***Cuore Chamber Choir sings:***

*Hodie Christus Natus Est*  
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

## ***Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9***

*The Repentant Remnant of Israel*

Reader: Cliodhna O Reilly

Principal St Matthew's Primary School, Irishtown

### ***ALL STAND AND SING***

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born upon this day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we had gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly 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:

The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind;  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this blessed babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
whereat this infant lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary, kneeling down,  
unto her Lord did pray;

continued over

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace.  
This holy tide of Christmas  
all others doth efface:

*English Traditional*

***Fifth Lesson: St. Luke 1: 26-35, 38***

*The Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Reader: Clelia Murphy

A member of the Select Vestry

***Cuore Chamber Choir sings:***

*Hymne a la Vierge*

Pierre Villette (1926-1998)

***Cuore Chamber Choir Sings***

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,  
Cách 'na suan dís araon,  
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis.  
Naoín beag gnaoigheal ceananntais caomh  
Críost, ina chodhladh go séimh.  
Críost, ina chodhladh go séimh.

***ALL STAND AND SING***

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.

*Joseph Mohr (1792-1844)*

***Sixth Lesson: St. Luke 2: 1-7***

*Caesar Augustus taxes the Empire.*

Reader: Maeve Gebruers

Irish Traditional Music Archive

***ALL STAND AND SING***

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 all 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, Emmanuel.

*Philip Brooks (1835-93)*

***Seventh Lesson: St. Luke 2: 8-14***

*The angels sing the first Christmas carol*

Reader: Cathal Twomey

A member of St Stephen's Church Choir



## ***ALL STAND AND SING***

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 looked 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:

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:

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:

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:

Then let us all with one accord,  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath brought:

## ***Eighth Lesson: St. Matthew 2: 1-2, 7-12***

*The Wise Men are led by a star to Jesus.*

Reader: Fr Fachtna Mc Carthy  
St Mary's Church, Haddington Rd.

### ***Cuore Chamber Choir***

Soloist Maria O Connor  
*O Holy Night* : Adolphe Adam

## ***Ninth Lesson: St. John 1: 1-14***

### ***ALL STAND***

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

Reader: Rev Yvonne Ginnelly

## ***Collection in aid of Dublin's 'Black Santa' Appeal for the homeless in Dublin***

### ***ALL STAND AND SING***

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,  
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:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802 - 80) adpt.*

## The Collects

### *The Blessing*

#### **ALL STAND AND SING**

Hark! The herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all you 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 us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel:

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 man no more may die;  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth:

*Charles Wesley (1707 - 88) and others*

#### **Organ Voluntary**

***Toccata from Symphonie no 5 C M Widor***

*Everyone is invited to remain behind  
for light refreshments  
courtesy of The Merrion Hotel.*

**CUORE CONCERT**

*Christmas with Cuore*

*Saturday December 20, 2025 7.30pm*

*St Mary's Church, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4  
(cuore.eventbrite.ie)*

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Holy Communion at 11a.m. in St Ann's Church,  
Dawson Street, Dublin 2.*

*Next Service in St Stephens  
with choir and music for Epiphany  
January 4 at 11am*

*For information about services  
stannsandststephens.ie  
www.youtube.com/@Pepper Canister Church  
Instagram.com/Peppercanistermusic*