

**Seventh Reading:** John 1: 1-14 - *St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation: the Word was made flesh and lived among us.*

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

*In the bleak mid-winter— Solo.*

**Closing prayer – All**

**O God who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so may we with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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." <i>Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"</i>	Christ by highest heav'n 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 man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. <i>Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"</i>
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 each child of earth, Born to give us second birth. <i>Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"</i>	

**A very special 'Thank You' to our organist, John Shera, The Ceiliuradh Choir - our soloist- Amy Stratford and all our readers.**



**St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown**

Carol Service 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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.	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 meek and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
And through all his wondrous childhood, He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly mother, In whose gentle arms He lay. Christian children all should be, Mild, obedient, good as He.	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.

**Bidding Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer – (Print familiar version)**

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: <i>O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord</i>	God of God, Light of Light, Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb: Very God, Begotten, not created: <i>O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!</i>
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God in the highest. <i>O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!;</i>	

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9: 2 & 6-7 - *The Prophecy of the birth of the Messiah*

*On Christmas night all Christians sing*

*Little Drummer Boy*

**Second Reading:** Micah 5: 2-4 – *The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of*

*Bethlehem*

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 men on earth. For Christ is born of Mary And gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love
O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray Cast out our sin and enter in Be born to us today We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel	

**Third Reading:** Luke 1: 26-38 – *The Annunciation to Mary*

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 dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth	

**Fourth Reading:** Luke 2: 1-12 - *Caesar Augustus taxes the empire and the baby Jesus is Born*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night All seated on the ground The angel of the Lord came down And glory shone around	"To you, in David's town this day Is born of David's line The Saviour who is Christ the Lord And this shall be the sign"
"The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed All meanly wrapped in swathing bands And in a manger laid"	"All glory be to God on high And on the earth be peace Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men Begin and never cease"

*Quem Pastores*

**Fifth Reading:** Luke 2: 13- 20 *The Shepherds go to the manger*

*Personent Hodie*

*Canto de Aguinaldo*

**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 2: 1-11 *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.	<i>O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.</i>
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.	Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb:	Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
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