



ST PETER'S  
ANGLICAN CHURCH  
CREMORNE

# A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Friday 12 December 2025 | 7pm



St Peter's Anglican Church, Cremorne



Rev. Mark Wormell  
*Acting Rector*

Glenn Amer  
*Director of Music*

Glenn Winslade  
Guest Soloist

*We would like to thank the renowned Australian Helden-Tenor, Glenn Winslade, for stepping in to sing "O Holy Night" at short notice to replace the indisposed Diego Torre who sends his apologies at not being able to join us tonight.*



Welcome to St Peter's Church. I am delighted that you can join us for our Carols and Lessons service tonight.

This is a joyous time of year when we as a church enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ with our wider community. If you are a newcomer or visiting, I especially look forward to meeting you and hope that you feel welcome. May I invite you to join us at one of our regular Sunday services during 2025. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters at the door, or someone in the pew next to you, or me after the service.

I wish you a merry and meaningful Christmas,

Rev Mark Wormell, Acting Rector.



A Hearing Loop is available in the pews on the left-hand side of the church. Toilets are available in the Lower Hall and a mobility access toilet in the David Armstrong Room.

Please ensure that mobile telephones are switched to silent or OFF.



# Organ prelude

*Gesù Bambino* by Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

☞ *The sacristy bell shall ring and the organ shall sound. All stand to sing.*

## Once in royal David's city

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 mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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 must be  
mild, 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 heav'n 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.

*Tune: Irby*

*Text: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895)*

*Music: Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)*

☞ *All remain standing*

*Officiant*

*The Bidding Prayer. The Congregation shall be bidden to prayer in these words:*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to 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, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen**

☞ *All sit*

## First Lesson:

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall  
bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis Chapter 3: 1 - 13

*Reader*

*Ken Bernie*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

*Reader*

*Congregation*

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *All stand to sing*

# Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Tune: Antioch*

*Text: Isaac Watts (1719)*

*Music: George Friedrich Handel (1685 – 1759)*

☞ *All sit*

Second Lesson:  
God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of  
the earth be blessed.  
Genesis Chapter 22

*Reader*

*Kah Lin Wormell*

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *All stand to sing*

# God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day;  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
a blessèd angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tiding of the same  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

And when they came to Bethlehem  
where our dear Saviour lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling down,  
unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

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 other doth efface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Text: based on Luke 2*  
*Music: trad. C. 1650*

∞ All sit



Third Lesson:  
Christ's birth and kingdom are  
foretold by the prophet Isaiah  
Isaiah Chapter 9

*Reader*

*Barbara Gordon*

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called. Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *All stand to sing*

Unto us a boy is born

Unto us a boy is born!  
The King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of ev'ry nation.

Cradled in a stall was he  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he the world surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
And all the little boys he killed  
At Bethl'hem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.

*Tune: Puer Nobis*

*Text: Anon. Latin C15<sup>th</sup>*

*Translated by Percy Dearmer (1867 – 1936)*

*Music: Melody from "Piae Cantiones" (1582)*

☞ *All sit*

Fourth Lesson:  
The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of Christ  
Isaiah Chapter 11: 1 - 9

*Reader*

*Philip Wood*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—  
<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.  
The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

 *All stand to sing*

# Angels from the realms of glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
heralds of creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:  
come and worship Christ, the new-born King,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching over flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

Wise men, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him:  
every knee shall then bow down: [Refrain]

*Tune: Iris*  
*Text: James Montgomery (1771 – 1854)*  
*Music: French traditional melody*

☞ All sit

Fifth Lesson:  
The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary  
Mark Chapter 1; 1-8

*Reader*

*Edwina Waddy*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"

<sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *All stand to sing*

# Silent Night

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;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*Tune: Silent Night*  
*Text: Joseph Mohr*  
*Music: Franz Grüber (1818)*

☞ *All sit*

Sixth Lesson:  
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus  
Luke Chapter 1: 26-35, 38

*Reader*

*Glenn Amer*

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

Reflection

*Rev. Mark Wormell*

☞ *All stand to sing*

## Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

*Tune: Cradle Song*

*Text: Anon*

*Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838 – 1921)*

☞ *All sit*

## Seventh Lesson: The shepherds go to the manger Luke Chapter 2

*Reader*

*Sue Paul*

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *Please remain seated*

☞ *"O Holy Night" (Adolphe Adam, 1803 - 1856) will be sung by distinguished Australian tenor, the renowned Glenn Winslade.*

# Eighth Lesson:

## The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

### Matthew Chapter 2

*Reader*

*Peter Watson*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' " <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

*Reader*

*Congregation*

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

☞ *All stand to sing*



# The first Nowell the angel did say

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields as 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 northwest,  
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 reverently 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;  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

*Tune: The First Noel*

*Text: Anon 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

*Music: English traditional (first published in 1823)*

☞ *The Acolytes will light the candles held by the Congregation. The church lights will be dimmed. Please remain standing for the reading of the Ninth Lesson.*

Ninth Lesson:  
John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation  
John Chapter 1

*Reader*

*Rev. Mark Wormell*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Reader*

For the word of the Lord

*Congregation*

**Thanks be to God**

*Officiant*

The Lord be with you

*Congregation*

**And also with you**

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may 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**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

☞ *All extinguish candles and remain standing. The church lights shall be raised for the Recessional Hymn.*

# O come, all ye faithful

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!*

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....*

See how the shepherds  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him....*

Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger  
fain we embrace thee with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly.  
*O come, let us adore him....*

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....*

*Tune: Adeste Fideles  
Text: John Francis Wade  
Tune: John Francis Wade (c.1711 – 1786)*

☞ *The congregation remains standing until the procession leaves the church.*

## Postlude

☞ *Improvisation on Christmas Tunes (Director of Music)*



*May the timeless message of Christmas  
fill your hearts and homes with joy and peace  
today and throughout the coming year.*

## Christmas Services 2025

### **Christmas Eve**

5:30pm Family Service

11pm Midnight Choral Service  
(with the St Peter's Singers)

### **Christmas Day**

9am Christmas Service  
with Holy Communion

## Regular services 2026

Sunday: 9am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School followed by morning tea

Tuesday: 10am Eucharist followed by morning tea

### **St Peter's Anglican Church, Cremorne**

29 Waters Road Cremorne NSW 2090

Tel [02] 9953 1050

[info@stpeterscremorne.org.au](mailto:info@stpeterscremorne.org.au)

[www.stpeterscremorne.org.au](http://www.stpeterscremorne.org.au)

**Acting Rector: Rev Mark Wormell**