



Groomsport Presbyterian Church

Sunday 22nd December 2019

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 2019

Readers:

Clerk of Session - Mr Alastair McQuoid

Assistant Minister - Ms Heidi Biermann

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERING AND DEDICATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Introit Joy has dawned (Getty & Townend)

Hymn O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)

Lesson Genesis 1: 1-5, 26-31

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lesson Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Hymn The race that long in darkness pined (Creditor)

Lesson Luke 1: 26-33

Choir Christ, be our light (Bernadette Farrell)

Lesson Luke 2: 1-7

Choir I saw a maiden (An old Basque Noël)

Hymn Once in royal David's city (Irby)

Choir The Lambkin (Rosemary Smyth)

Lesson Luke 2: 8-14

Choir When Christ, the Son of Mary (Neapolitan trad)

Hymn It came upon the midnight clear (Noël)

Lesson Luke 2: 15-20

Choir A manger carol (Benjamin Harlan)

Hymn While humble shepherds (Winchester Old)

Lesson Matthew 2: 1-14

Choir Bethlehem (Lloyd Larson)

Hymn As with gladness (Dix)

Lesson Luke 2: 25-34

Choir Glorious Light (K&K Getty, Ian Hannah)

Lesson John 1: 1-14

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Hymn Hark! The herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)

BENEDICTION

After the Service, the Congregation are warmly invited
to stay for mince pies and mulled wine
in the church hall.
Everyone is very welcome.

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;

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,

'Glory to God

In the highest.'

The race that long in darkness pined

Have seen a glorious light;

The people dwell in day, who dwelt

In death's surrounding night.

To us a Child of hope is born;

To us a Son is given;

Him shall the tribes of earth obey,

Him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,

For evermore adored,

The Wonderful, the Counsellor,

The great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,

His reign no end shall know;

Justice shall guard his throne above,

And peace abound below.

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 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.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold; -
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the Age of Gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

While humble shepherds watched their flocks

In Bethlehem's plains by night,
An angel sent from heaven appeared,
And filled the plains with light.

'Fear not,' he said, for sudden dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.'

'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.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God; and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will is shown by heaven to men
And never more shall cease.'

As with gladness men of old

Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Hark! the herald angels sing,

'Glory to the new-born 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'.

***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 man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

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: