

St Edward, King and Martyr



FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 13th December 2020

WELCOME TO ST EDWARD'S

Welcome to St. Edward's! We hope you enjoy your time of worship with us and that you experience healing, refreshing, and are strengthened in your faith journey. You are joining in with many voices over the centuries that have gathered in this place seeking God and praising Jesus Christ.

St. Edward's is also known for its significant role in the English Reformation. Its particular status in connection with Trinity Hall (established by King Henry VI in 1446) offered reformers a place to meet, pray, study the Bible, and preach freely. Names such as Thomas Bilney, Robert Barnes, Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer are just some of those associated with the church.

Some of the reformers with connections to St. Edward's were martyred for their faith and none more significant than Ridley and Latimer. It is said that before being burnt at the stake in Oxford, Latimer offered these words: 'Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man: we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England as I trust shall never be put out.'

Indeed, the reformers did light a candle of faith in this country that has gone out to the ends of the earth and has been passed on to us. Today we face different challenges in our culture, but St. Edward's aspires to be a part of Latimer's vision where the love and hope of Christ continues to spread throughout this country and the world. Whether we worship within the walls of St. Edward's, or serve outside in the community, we invite you to join in with us as we seek to make the gospel of Christ known in Cambridge and beyond.

Carol – 42 Once in Royal David's City

The Welcome and Greeting

Prayer

Father, fill our hearts with joy as we come to celebrate the festival of the birth of Jesus. As our thoughts turn towards Bethlehem, give us your spirit of love, that we may worship as the shepherds did of old. Let us be open to your coming among us so that Jesus may be born in our hearts today. Amen.

First Reading - Genesis 3:8-15,17-19

The fall

Carol – 28 Lo, He comes with clouds descending

Second Reading – Genesis 22:15-18

God's promise to Abraham

Carol – 42 In the bleak midwinter

(As we sing, the animals are placed in the stable)

Third Reading – Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

Carol – Joy to the world

Fourth Reading – Isaiah 11:1-3a,4a,6-9

The prophecy of the Messiah's kingdom of peace

Carol – 40 O Little town of Bethlehem

Fifth Reading – Luke 1:26-35,38

The Annunciation to Mary

Carol – The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

Sixth Reading – Luke 2:1,3-7

The birth of Jesus

Carol – Silent night

(As we sing, figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus come to the stable)

Seventh Reading – Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

Carol – 37 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

(As we sing, figures of the shepherds are brought to the stable)

Eighth Reading - Matthew 2:1-12

The magi are led by the star to Jesus

Carol – We three kings

(As we sing, the magi are brought to the stable)

Ninth Reading – John 1:1-14

The Incarnation of the Word of God

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

**And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom and the power, and the glory
are yours forever and ever. Amen.**

(We process outside to market square for our final hymn)

Carol - 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;

Refrain:

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 eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created, [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” [Refrain]

The Blessing

*(Please stay for refreshments after the service in the left hand chapel
at the front of the church)*

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