



**A SERVICE OF
MUSIC, READINGS AND
CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Sunday 17 December 2000



Light and life to all he brings Risen with Healing in his Wings

None of us need reminding of the brokenness of our world and of our lives. Whether it be broken bodies, troubled minds, divided communities, warring nations or our damaged environment there rises within us a longing for wholeness – for healing.

Christmas announces God's healing presence in the midst of our brokenness:

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord." (*Luke 2:11*)

The word 'Saviour' comes from the same word that means 'healer' or 'the one who makes that which is broken whole again'. In the coming of Jesus, we celebrate the presence of God in our midst whose purpose for us and for the whole creation is that we find healing and peace in the love that is at the heart of all things.

One of the most significant developments in our Church life recently, has been the introduction of healing services. They take place on the second Sunday evening of each month and they give us the opportunity to bring the pain and suffering of our human experience before God so that we may find healing and peace for one another and for our world. You are very welcome to join us.

You are also welcome to midday community prayers, which takes places here in the church every weekday at 12 noon. If you have a concern for prayer, please let us know so that we may pray for you. You can place your request in the prayer bowl or box or, alternatively, phone me on 020 8883 2350.

Finally, I hope that you will be able to enjoy coffee, tea and mince pies with us in the Garden Room after the service. Have a very happy Christmas.

David Mullins

RISEN WITH HEALING IN HIS WINGS

The service begins in darkness with the choir singing from the Narthex

CHRIST THE LORD WAS BORN FOR YOU

CHOIR A Great and Mighty Wonder
Words: St Germanus tr. J M Neale
Old German tune harmonized by M Praetorius

Bidding prayer and Lord's prayer

HP 114 Once in Royal David's City

CHOIR Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Tr. Edith M Reed Polish carol arr Willcocks

CARRY ME TO BETHLEHEM

CHOIR Let Music Reign Tonight
Words: Judith Maylor Tune: Iain R McDonald
arr. Sarah Rodgers

READING 1 **The people that walked in darkness**
Isaiah 9:2,6&7

Read by Theo Mannie-Mdingi

HP 115 On Christmas Night all Christians sing

READING 2 **Now the birth of Jesus**

Matthew 1:18-25

Read by Alistair Phillips

CHOIR Nativity Carol
Words and music by John Rutter

HP 118 See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw
Instrumental arrangement by Sarah Rodgers

POEM **'The Coming of the King'** by Dave Kitchen
Read by David Mullins

- CHOIR** Midwinter
Words: Christina Rossetti Music: Bob Chilcott
- READING 3** **And there were in the same country,**
Luke 2:8-20
Read by Abimbola Johnson
- CHOIR** Shepherd's Farewell from L'Enfance du Christ
Words: Paul England Music: Hector Berlioz
- HP 108** It Came upon the Midnight Clear
- READING 4** **Now when Jesus was born**
Matthew 2:1-12
Read by Flora Hillidge
- CHOIR/ALL** **We three kings of Orient are**
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
- O Star of wonder, Star of Night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*
- Gaspard (solo)*
- Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
- Melchior (solo):*
- Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship him, God on high.

Balthazar (solo):

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.
Heaven sing: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia' the earth replies.**

John Henry Hopkins (1820-91)

Instrumental arrangement by Sarah Rodgers

A LITTLE MORE LOVE

READING 'A little more love' by Dave Kitchen
Read by Pete Wilson

CHOIR Ding, Dong Merrily on High
Words: G R Woodward
16th c. French tune harmonised by Charles Wood

INTERVIEW **Chris Argent**

HP 124 Child of the Stable's Secret Birth

CHOIR Walking in the Air
Howard Blake. Arrangement by Sarah Rodgers

PRAVERS FOR HEALING

*Led by Sr Anne Marie Farrell and David Mullins with sung
Response as indicated.*

Let us pray.

God of compassion and love, we come to you

In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world

We come to you because you have come to us in Jesus

And know by experience what human life is like

We come with our faith and with our doubts

We come with our hopes and with our fears

We come as we are, because you invite us to come

And promise never to turn us away”

***"The grace of God has dawned upon the world,
with healing for everyone."***

Jesus, in your compassion you were moved to heal those
around you who were suffering or in pain,
so we bring before you.....

Jesus, with your words and touch
those who were distressed found peace
those who were tormented found rest,
so we bring before you....

***"The grace of God has dawned upon the world,
with healing for everyone."***

Jesus, you came to mend our broken relationships and unite us
in love for one another and for God, so we bring to you....

Jesus, you were moved to tears when you saw the grief of
those who mourned, so we bring before you.....

***"The grace of God has dawned upon the world,
with healing for everyone."***

Jesus, in your words and actions the poor found dignity and
the oppressed found justice, so we bring before you....

Jesus, you wept for the city you loved, so we bring before
you....

***"The grace of God has dawned upon the world,
with healing for everyone."***

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Bring your light and life to each and to all this
Christmastime.**

**Rise, like the dawn, with healing in your wings
Bind up our wounds, mend our brokenness and
enfold us in our healing love so that we may
find the wholeness for which we were made,
both now and to all eternity,
Amen.**

*"The grace of God has dawned upon the world,
with healing for everyone."*

READING 5 **In the Beginning was the Word**

John 1:1-14

Read by Charlotte Barber

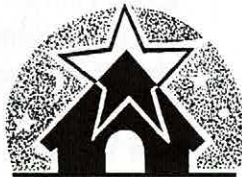
HP 106

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Instrumental arrangement by Sarah Rodgers

BLESSING

*Please come and enjoy coffee, tea and mince pies with us in
the Garden Room after the service.*



**HAVE A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**



Our sincere thanks to Sarah Rodgers, our musical director for this evening's service and to the choir and instrumentalists.

Instrumentalists:

Organ and piano	Catherine Simms
Violin	Rachael Prince
	Edward Bunting
	Ann Smith
Oboe	Joe Gamble
Flute	Sophie Weale-Williets
	Hannah Watson
	Rachel Mullins
	Eleanor Simms
	Kezia Gaitskell
Clarinet	Geraldine Allen (wind synthesiser)
	Edmund Watson
	David Cochrane
Horn	Katie Thorpe
Recorder	Susannah Simms (descant and treble)
	Naomi Combes (descant)
Guitar	Steve Cochrane
Bass guitar	Ben Wakelin

The Musical Arrangements are by Sarah Rodgers