



**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour** is a private Chapel of Ease, founded by John George Kenyon (1843–1914) and consecrated in 1898. The church takes its name from a famous icon from 1499, a copy of which may be found to the right of the altar. Designed by Frederick Banham, a local architect (and also Mayor of Beccles), its unusual shape, with two symmetrical belltowers, was inspired by the church of the Santissima Trinità dei Monti, Rome.

The crib figures are Italian, and date from the late 1880s. The crib goes into the church for Christmas Day, and remains until the Octave of the Epiphany (6-13 January) is finished.

You can find out more about this church's history on our website:

<https://ourladyofperpetualsuccourgillingham.wordpress.com>

**Saint Nicholas** is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students. His feast day is 6<sup>th</sup> December. He lived from 270-343 AD and was the Greek Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor (modern-day Demre, Turkey). He is traditionally associated with gift-giving at Christmas. In his most famous exploit, Nicholas aided a poor man who had three daughters, but could not afford a proper dowry for them. Hearing of the girls' plight, Nicholas decided to help them, but being too modest to help the family in public, he went to the house under the cover of night and threw three purses, filled

with gold coins (one for each daughter), through their window. The third time, the father lay in wait, trying to discover the identity of his benefactor: in one version, the father confronts the saint, only to have Nicholas say it is not him he should thank, but God alone. In another version, Nicholas learns of the poor man's plan and drops the third bag down the chimney instead; a variant holds that the daughter had washed her stockings that evening and hung them over the embers to dry, and that the bag of gold thus fell into a stocking.



*The dowry for the three virgins*, Gentile da Fabriano  
c. 1425, Pinacoteca Vaticana, Rome.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Please stand as the Priest processes down the aisle to the crib, bearing the figure of the baby Jesus. As he returns to the altar, Mass begins.*

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and He will be called Wondrous God, Prince of Peace, Father of future ages; and His reign will be without end.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may briefly introduce the Mass.*

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

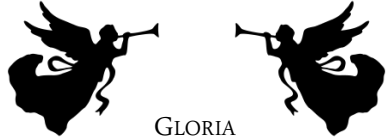
**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have  
failed to do,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray  
for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
Forgive us our sins,  
And bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**



### GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the  
Father, You take away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us; You take away  
the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us. For You alone  
are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
of God the Father. Amen.**



COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of Your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit.*

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 62: 11-12*

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, "Look, your Saviour comes, the prize of His victory with Him, His trophies before Him."

They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed',

And you shall be called 'The sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken'.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96: VERSES 6, 11-12

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
the many coastlands be glad.

The skies proclaim His justice;  
all peoples see His glory.

**Response:**

**This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.**

Light shines forth for the just  
and joy for the upright of heart.

Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;  
give glory to His holy name.

**Response**



SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

*Titus 3: 4-7*

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because He was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except His own compassion that He saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which He has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by His grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LUKE 2:14



**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy His favour.**

**Alleluia!**

*Please stand for the Gospel.*



GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 2: 15-20*

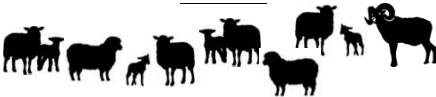
Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in the manger. When they saw the Child they repeated what they had been told about Him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please sit.*

HOMILY



*Please stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true**

**God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and (*please kneel*) by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Each Bidding Prayer will finish with:*

Lord, in Your mercy:

**Response:** Hear our prayer.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**



## HAIL MARY

*We bring all our intentions to Our Lady:*

**Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blest is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Please sit.*

*N.B.: In accordance with tradition, today's collection is a personal gift from the congregation to the priest.*



Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the bread we offer You: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the wine we offer You: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Please stand.*

Pray brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord, of the mysteries of the Nativity this day, that, just as Christ was born a man and also shone forth as God, so these earthly gifts may confer on us what is divine. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that, as we recognise in Him God made visible, we may be caught up through Him in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory:**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel.*

To You, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord: that You accept and bless † these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer You firstly for Your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Francis our Pope and Alan our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to You. For them, we offer You this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to You, the eternal God, living and true.

Celebrating this most sacred day on which Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Saviour for this world, and in communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, blessed Joseph, Her Spouse, Your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, and all Your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by Your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of Your whole family; order our days in Your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and



counted among the flock of those You have chosen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of Your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before He was to suffer, He took bread in His holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to You, O God, His almighty Father, giving You thanks, He said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU,  
AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS  
IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL  
BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.



In a similar way, when supper was ended, He took this precious chalice in His holy and venerable hands, and once more giving You thanks, He said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, Your Son, our Lord, we, Your servants and Your holy people, offer to Your glorious majesty from the gifts that You have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation. Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once You were pleased to accept the gifts of Your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of Your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim. In humble prayer we ask You, almighty God: command that these gifts

be borne by the hands of Your holy Angel to Your altar on high in the sight of Your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of Your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

*Commemoration of the dead*

Remember also, Lord, Your servants who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.

To us, also, Your servants, who, though sinners, hope in Your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with Your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, and all Your Saints; admit us, we beseech You, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us Your pardon, through Christ our Lord, through whom You continue to make all these good things, O Lord; You sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is Yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand.*





## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, Graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are Yours, now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your Apostles: 'Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;' look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with Your will, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



### THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.  
*The sign of peace is passed down the church by  
the altar server.*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of  
the world, grant us peace.**

*Please kneel.*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
Behold Him who takes away the sins of  
the world. Blessed are those called to the  
supper of the Lamb.



**Lord, I am not worthy that You should  
enter under my roof, but only say the  
word and my soul shall be healed.**

*[If you are not able to take Catholic communion, please do come  
forward for a blessing, crossing your arms across your chest.]*

*Communion response:*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rejoice, O daughter Sion; lift up praise,  
daughter Jerusalem; behold, your King  
will come, the Holy One and Saviour of  
the world.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, Lord, as we honour with joyful  
devotion the Nativity of Your Son, that we  
may come to know with fullness of faith  
the hidden depths of this mystery and to  
love them ever more and more.

Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May the God of infinite goodness, Who by the incarnation of His Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy dawn, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy of His Son's saving birth be announced to the shepherds by the angel, fill your minds with the gladness He gives and make you heralds of His Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of His peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended. Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Adéste fidéles** laeti trímphántes,  
veníte, veníte in Bétlehem.  
nátum vidéte, Régem Angelórum;

*Veníte adorémus,*

*veníte adorémus,*

*veníte adorémus*

*Dóminum!*



Déum de Déo, lúmen de lumíne,  
géstant puéllae víscera.  
Déum vérum, génitum non fáctum;

*Veníte adorémus...*

Cántet nunc ío chórus angelórum  
cántet nunc aúla caeléstium:  
Glória in excélsis Déo!

*Veníte adorémus...*



Ergo qui nátus, díe hodiérna,  
Jésu, tibí sit glória.  
Pátris aetérni Vérbum cáro fáctum;

*Veníte adorémus...*

Text: Latin traditional

Music: John Reading, early 1700s

**Please leave this Order of Service in the church so  
that we can use it again next year.**

Thank you ~ and Happy Christmas!



A decorative border of musical notation, including treble clefs, notes, and rests, frames the text on all sides.

**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!”

***Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”***

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. ***Hark! ...***

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n 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.  
***Hark! ...***

Text: Charles Wesley ( 1707-1788)  
Music : Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,**  
Let nothing you dismay;  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born upon this day;  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray.



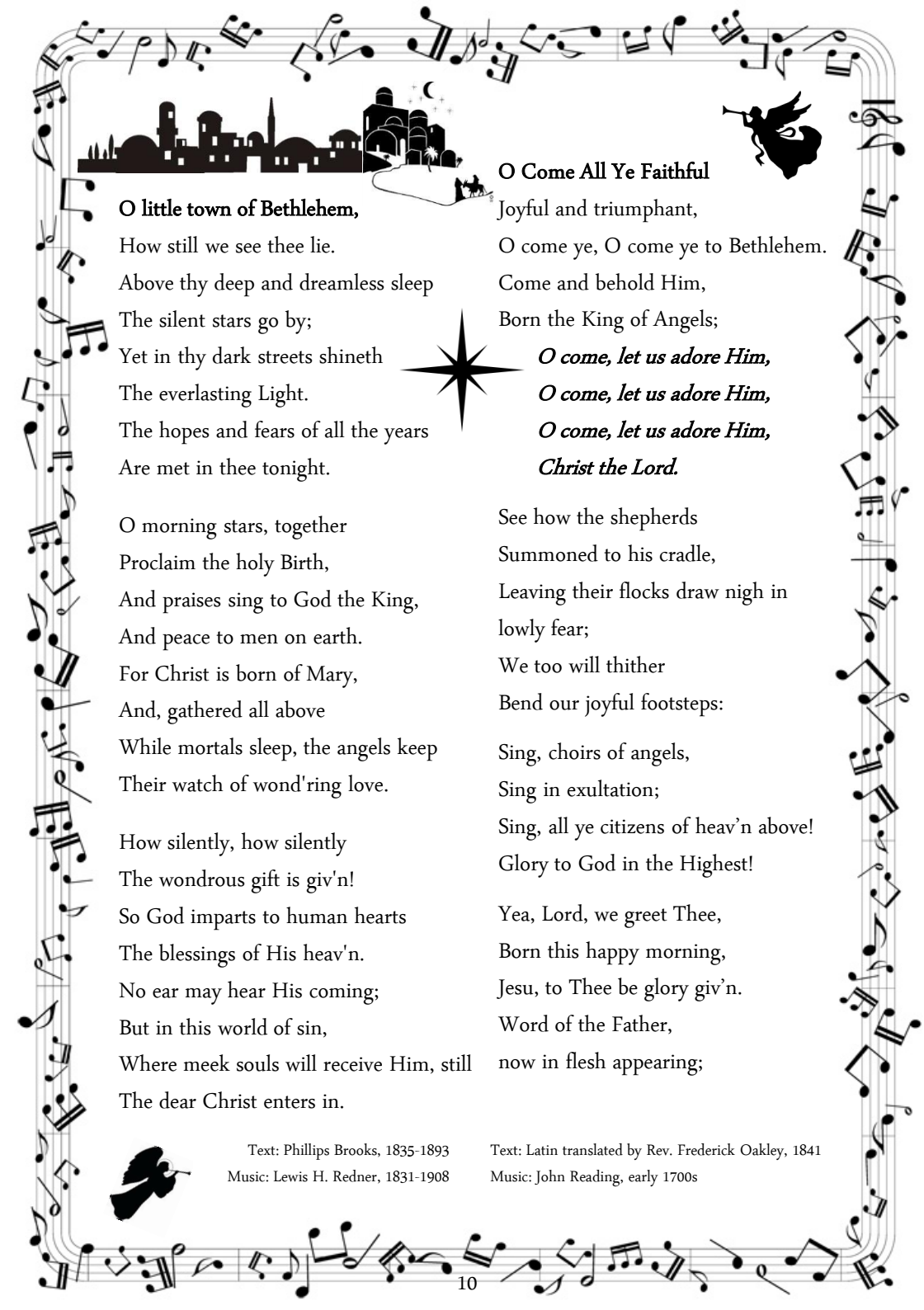
***O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

In Bethlehem in Jewry  
This blessed Babe was born,  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn;  
The which his mother Mary  
Nothing did take in scorn. ***O tidings...***

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name. ***O tidings...***

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace.  
The holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth efface. ***O tidings...***

Traditional English setting of a carol dated to the  
16th century or earlier.




**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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

**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.*

See how the shepherds  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks draw nigh in  
lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God in the Highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to Thee be glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Text: Latin translated by Rev. Frederick Oakley, 1841  
Music: John Reading, early 1700s



**In the bleak mid-winter**

Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,

In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;

Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:

In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man

I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him -  
Give my heart.



Text: Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894  
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

**See, amid the winter's snow**

Born for us on Earth below,  
See, the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,*

*Hail redemption's happy dawn,*

*Sing through all Jerusalem:*

*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Lo, within a manger lies

He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits among the cherubim. *Hail,...*

Sacred Infant, all divine,


What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this. *Hail,...*

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy sweet humility. *Hail,...*

Virgin Mother, Mary blest  
By the joys that fill thy breast,  
Pray for us, that we may prove  
Worthy of the Saviour's love. *Hail,...*



Text: Edward Caswall, 1813-1878  
Music: Sir John Goss, 1800-1880

A decorative border of musical notation, including treble clefs, notes, and rests, frames the text on the page.

**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, goodwill to men  
From heav'n'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.

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.

**The holly and the ivy,**

When they are both full grown;  
Of all the trees that are in the wood  
The holly bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun*

*And the running of the deer;*

*The playing of the merry organ,*

*Sweet singing of the choir!*

The holly bears a blossom  
As white as lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.

The holly and the ivy  
Now both are full well grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810-1876  
Music: adapted from a traditional English tune  
by Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan, 1842-1900

Text: Traditional, British early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Music: English folk tune collected by Cecil Sharp, 1859-1924





**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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern;  
Day by day, like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feeleth for our sadness,  
And He shareth in our gladness.

5. 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.

6. 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;  
Where like stars His children  
crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

Text: Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, *Hymns for Little Children*, 1848

Music: "Irby," Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), 1849

