Today's service will be mainly said with Carols First Hymn

The advent of our God with eager prayers we greet, and singing haste upon the road His glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son scorns not the Virgin's womb; that we from bondage may be won He bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise to meet thy lowly Kings; let not thy stubborn heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light, as Judge he comes again, His scattered people to unite, with him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away, ere that great hour shall dawn, let this old Adam day by day the new Man all put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son, who comes to set us free, with Father and with Spirit One, to all eternity. Amen.

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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 amid the cherubim:

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Saviour's birth."

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild, teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility: *E Caswall 1814-78 Tune: John Goss*

Gloria

Glory be to God in heaven, Songs of joy and peace we bring, Thankful hearts and voices raising, To creation's Lord we sing : Lord, we thank you, Lord we bless you, Glory be to God our King, Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on your shoulders Bore the load of this world's sin, Only Son of God the Father, You O Son of God, are holy, You we praise with one accord; None in heav'n or earth is like you, Only you are Christ the Lord With the Father, and the Spirit, Ever worshipped and adored, Ever worshipped and adored. You have brought us peace within: Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Now your glorious reign begin, Now your glorious reign begin. *The Alleluia is said*

> May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Offertory hymn

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me; but in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for thy holy nativity:

> O come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming thy royal degree; but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth, and in great humility: *Refrain*

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word that should set thy people free; but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn they bore thee to Calvary: *Refrain*

When all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing, at thy coming to victory, let thy voice call me home, saying, 'Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee.' *Refrain*

E. Elliott (1836-97)

Music: Margaret

At Communion if you wish to receive from the chalice – the common cup – please make your way to the Font (by the entrance). If you would rather have the host intincted in the wine by the Priest please come to the front.

Communion Hymn

A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure! The virgin bears the infant with virgin-honour pure: *Repeat the hymn again! "To God on high be glory, and peace on earth to men."*

The word becomes incarnate, and yet remains on high! And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

Since all he comes to ransom, by all be he adored, the infant born in Bethl'em, the Saviour and the Lord.

And idol forms shall perish, and error shall decay, and Christ shall wield his sceptre, our Lord and God for ay. St Germanus 634-734 (tr J.M. Neale) Tune: Es ist ein, Ros' entsprungen

Final Hymn

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord!

While Shepherds kept their watching o'er wand'ring flocks by night, behold from out of heaven there shone a holy light

and lo, when they had seen it they all bowed down and prayed, they travelled on together to where the babe was laid.

When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day; I asked the Lord to guide me and he showed me the way.

Then he made me a watchman upon a city wall, to tell of his salvation that Jesus died for all. Words and Music Traditional

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