

Pontrhydyrun

BAPTIST CHURCH



20th December 2020

Hello and welcome to Pontrhydyrun Baptist Church's first ever drive-in carol service. We're delighted to have you here with us as we sing some traditional songs, listen to some traditional readings and hear a probably very untraditional message from Brian Whittaker, one of our ministers.

The order of service is enclosed within this booklet and you shouldn't need any additional words to follow along, we'll follow this service without introducing each section but as we've said this is the first time we've done this so if things go wrong please bear with us.

We've been graciously allowed to use Morrisons' car park to host this event and while we've set things up so as many people as possible will be able to both hear and see the proceedings we can't guarantee you'll be able to see us – but as all the sound will be provided by your own car stereos (set to FM frequency 87.9MHz, please!) and your own singing along with the carols then no matter if you can't see the stage, you'll still be able to hear us.

Please do sing along. Even if you aren't great at singing, the point of these songs is to praise God and He doesn't care if you're a good singer, he looks at your heart. Please consider not having your car's engine running if possible – it's better for the environment – but of course it's cold tonight so if you're getting cold don't worry about running them to warm up!

Practically speaking, if things go wrong on the night – for example your car won't start or you can't hear the audio then please flash your hazards and someone will come and help you out. The latest Welsh government advice is that at a drive-in event you should stay in your cars if at all possible, so please don't leave your car except in an emergency!

At the end of the event, or if we have to vacate the car park unexpectedly the stewards will give you instructions on which way to go to leave – there are multiple ways out and if we let you all go at the same time it will cause traffic chaos – so please wait to be instructed to leave and go the way you've been asked, it'll be much easier for everyone if you do!

God Bless, and we hope you enjoy this carol service!

You are welcome to join us at any of our physical gatherings (please book via <http://pontrhydyrunbc.eventbrite.co.uk/>), or see us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PontrhydyrunBC>) or Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/PontrhydyrunBC>). And if you really want you can follow us on Twitter – I'm sure you can guess the link by now – (www.twitter.com/PontrhydyrunBC)

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Acknowledgements

Firstly and foremost we need to thank Jesus – as after all, as the cliché goes, He is the reason for the season! Our faith in Jesus has sustained us through this difficult year and will continue to do so over the years to come, no matter what is to come. If you don't share our faith, why not come along to one of our regular events, or just check us out on Youtube or Facebook, and maybe you can see what you're missing out on.

More prosaically we need to thank Morrisons for allowing us to use their car park for this event, we need to thank Green Room Events for providing all the broadcast equipment to make this happen, we need to thank our volunteers, stewards, planners, musicians and speakers for working so hard to make this a reality – and we above all need to thank you for coming along – as without you this carol service would have been just a bunch of weirdos singing at an empty car park.

We do hope and pray you have a blessed festive season, and the happiest of New Years. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Intro and Welcome (Minister Jonny Raine)

First Reading: John chapter 1 verses 1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

First song: Joy to the World (Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98)

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Second reading: Luke 2:1-7

1. In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Second Song: Silent Night (Joseph Mohr)

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing hallelujah;
Christ the Saviour is born!
3. Silent Night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Third reading: Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the

Very God,
Begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him...

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
In the highest!'
O come, let us adore Him...
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born that happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him...

Final prayer

Ending song: Somewhere in your silent night

Talk (Minister Brian Whittaker)



Final song: O Come all Ye Faithful (Frederick Oakley, 1802-80)

1. 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!*
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;

angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Third Song: Hark the Herald (Charles Wesley, 1707-88)

1. 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.*
2. 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.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*
3. 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.

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."^[b]

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Fourth Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem (Philips Brooks)

1. 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.

2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim Thy 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 wondering love.
3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.