

# KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



## A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE  
2015

**W**ELCOME to this special service. We are very grateful to you for coming to share with us in this great occasion which is an act of worship for us here in Chapel and for the millions who will join us around the world.

Before the service begins, please note the following requests:

- ¶ Please pay special attention to any unwanted sounds. To a radio audience, coughing is a particular distraction, much more so than to others in the Chapel. You are therefore asked to keep any such sounds to an absolute minimum, and to make sure that bags, sticks etc. are placed safely on the floor.
- ¶ If you have a mobile phone, please double-check that it is turned off. The same applies to chiming watches or other devices which are likely to be heard by sensitive microphones.
- ¶ Please put your contribution to the collection, which goes to support the work of the Chapel, in the Gift Aid envelope that you will find in this order of service, and add it to the collection as you leave.
- ¶ In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the chapel please follow the directions of the stewards, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.

Finally, I wish you a very Happy Christmas, and add that if you would like to join us for our Christmas Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day you will be most welcome.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean



THE Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised the College's Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced by successive Organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Sir Philip Ledger, 1974–82 and, from 1982, Stephen Cleobury. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880.

A. C. Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop'. The idea had come from G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first

broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel.

Sometime in the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programmes. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the United Kingdom. In recent years it has become the practice to broadcast a recording of the service on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963 a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame. In these and other ways the service has become public property.

From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as ‘the place where the Carols are sung’.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. ‘The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘through the windows and the words of the Bible’. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer; and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage ‘all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light’. The centre of the service is still found by those who ‘go in heart and mind’ and who consent to follow where the story leads.

*Front cover illustration: Two shepherds in a field (King’s MS 37 f.52v).*

**¶ The congregation is asked not to talk during the organ music which is played before the service.**

The programme interweaves movements from Messiaen *La Nativité du Seigneur*, Bach *Das Orgelbüchlein* BWV 599–644 and Karg-Elert *Chorale Improvisations* Op. 65 culminating in Bach *Canonic variations on 'Vom Himmel hoch'* BWV 769a.

|     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| I   | La Vierge et l'Enfant   | MESSIAEN   |
|     | Puer natus in Bethlehem BWV 603                                       | J. S. BACH |
|     | Macht hoch die Tür Op. 65 No. 8                                       | KARG-ELERT |
|     | Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605                              | J. S. BACH |
| III | Desseins éternels   | MESSIAEN   |
|     | Wir Christenleut' BWV 612   | J. S. BACH |
| II  | Les bergers   | MESSIAEN   |
|     | Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar BWV 607                                | J. S. BACH |
| VI  | Les anges   | MESSIAEN   |
|     | In dulci jubilo BWV 608   | J. S. BACH |
|     | Vom Himmel hoch Op. 65 No. 10   | KARG-ELERT |
|     | Vom Himmel hoch,<br>da komm' ich her BWV 606                          | J. S. BACH |
|     | Canonic variations on 'Vom Himmel hoch,<br>da komm' ich her' BWV 769a | J. S. BACH |

Order of Service

¶ The congregation stands for the entry of the Mayoral procession, and then sits again.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

¶ The congregation in the Choir stands at the same time as the congregation in the Ante-chapel, so that all are silent when the hymn starts.



**Solo**      **O** NCE 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.

**Choir**    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.

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¶ **The congregation is invited to join in from verse 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.

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.

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.

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,  
When, like stars, his children, crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.

Words, CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER

Melody, HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT

harmonised, HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT and ARTHUR HENRY MANN

Descant, DAVID WILLCOCKS

*Oxford University Press*

## BIDDING PRAYER

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¶ Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.

**Dean**

**B**ELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Chapel, dedicated to Mary, his most blessed Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this University and City of Cambridge, and in the two royal and religious Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton:

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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Our Father ...

**All**

**O**UR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Dean**

**T**HE Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**All     Amen.**

**¶ The congregation sits.**

## CAROL

---

WHAT sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heav'nly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!  
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honour to this day  
That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
Thus on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven and the under earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers,  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart,  
Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour, who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?

Words, ROBERT HERRICK  
Music, JOHN RUTTER  
*Oxford University Press*

*This carol was commissioned for 'A Festival  
of Nine Lessons and Carols' in 1987.*

## FIRST LESSON

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READER: A CHORISTER

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

GENESIS 3

**A**ND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

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**T**HIS is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell:  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this 'twas God's own choice  
To place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain from evil free,  
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin;  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

HEREFORDSHIRE CAROL  
arranged, RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  
*Stainer & Bell*

## CAROL

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A DAM lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkès finden  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady  
Abeen heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
*Deo gracias!*

Words, XV CENTURY  
Music, BORIS ORD  
*Oxford University Press*

## SECOND LESSON

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READER: A CHORAL SCHOLAR

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

GENESIS 22

**A**ND the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

---

**D**ING! dong! merrily on high  
In heaven the bells are ringing!  
Ding! dong! verily the sky  
Is riven with angel-singing!  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "I-o, i-o, i-o!"  
By priest and people sungen:  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers:  
*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.*

Words, GEORGE RATCLIFFE WOODWARD  
Music, JEHAN TABOUROT  
arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ Please wait until the Choir has finished singing before turning the page as quietly as possible.

## CAROL

---

**I**N *dulci júbilo*  
let us our homage shew;  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
*In praesepio,*  
And like a bright star shineth  
*Matris in gremio.*  
*Alpha es et O.*

*O Jesu parvule,*  
I yearn for thee alway!  
Comfort my heart's blindness,  
*O Puer optime,*  
With all thy loving-kindness,  
*O princeps gloriae!*  
*Trahe me post te!*

*O Patris caritas,*  
*O Nati lenitas!*  
Deeply were we stainèd  
*Per nostra crimina;*  
But thou hast for us gainèd  
*Coelorum gaudia.*  
O that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia,* where,  
If that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
*Nova cantica,*  
There the bells are ringing  
*In Regis curia:*  
O that we were there!

---

In sweet jubilation  
*let us our homage shew;*  
*Our heart's joy reclineth*  
In the manger,  
*And like a bright star shineth*  
On his mother's lap.  
Who is Alpha and Omega.

O infant Jesus,  
*I yearn for thee alway!*  
*Comfort my heart's blindness,*  
Child most excellent,  
*With all thy loving-kindness,*  
O Prince of glory!  
Draw me after Thee!

O love of the Father,  
O gentleness of the Son!  
*Deeply were we stainèd*  
For our sins;  
*But thou hast for us gainèd*  
The joys of heaven.  
*O that we were there!*

Where are those joys,  
*If that they be not there?*  
*There are angels singing*  
New songs,  
*There the bells are ringing*  
In the King's court:  
*O that we were there!*

Words, XIV CENTURY GERMAN  
arranged, ROBERT LUCAS PEARSALL  
edited, REGINALD JACQUES  
*Oxford University Press*

### THIRD LESSON

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READER: A MEMBER OF COLLEGE STAFF

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

ISAIAH 9

**T**HE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

---

ON Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring –  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

SUSSEX CAROL  
Words and Music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL  
arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ Please wait until the organ has started playing before turning the page.

## HYMN

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♪ **Sung by all, standing.**



**I**T 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, good-will to men,  
From heaven’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 blessèd angels sing.

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Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the 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.

Words, EDMUND SEARS  
Melody, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL  
arranged, ARTHUR SULLIVAN  
Descant, STEPHEN CLEOBURY  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ **The congregation sits.**

## FOURTH LESSON

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READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

ISAIAH II

**A**ND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

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A TENDER shoot has started up  
From a root of grace,  
As ancient seers imparted  
From Jesse's holy race;  
It blooms without a blight,  
Blooms in the cold bleak winter,  
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,  
From Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us  
The branch of which we sing:  
Our God of endless might  
Gave her this child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light.

Words and Music, OTTO GOLDSCHMIDT  
translated, WILLIAM BARTHOLOMEW  
*Gamut Distribution*

¶ Please wait until the Choir has finished singing before  
turning the page as quietly as possible.

## CAROL

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A SPOTLESS Rose is blowing,  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
And in the dark midnight,  
Amid the winter cold,  
A spotless Rose unfolds.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing,  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For, through our God's great love and might,  
And in the dark midnight,  
Amid the winter cold,  
The blessed Babe she bare.

Words, XIV CENTURY GERMAN  
translated, CATHERINE WINKWORTH  
Music, PHILIP LEDGER  
*Encore Publications*

*This carol was composed for the Choir of King's College for  
'A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' in 2002.*

## FIFTH LESSON

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READER: THE MASTER OVER THE CHORISTERS

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

LUKE I

**A**ND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

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THE angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
*Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!*

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.  
*Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his Holy Name.'  
*Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say –  
*Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!*

Words, SABINE BARING-GOULD  
Music, BASQUE TRADITIONAL  
arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

## CAROL

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**N**OVA! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.<sup>1</sup>  
Gabriel of high degree,  
He came down from Trinity  
to Nazareth in Galilee.  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

He met a maiden in a place,  
He kneelèd down afore her face.  
He said: 'Hail, Mary, full of grace!'  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

When the maid heard tell of this  
She was full sore abashed Iwys,<sup>2</sup>  
And wened<sup>3</sup> that she had done amiss.  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

Then said the angel: 'Dread not you,  
You shall conceive in all vertue  
A Child whose name shall be Jesu.'  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

'It is not yet six months agone  
Since Elizabeth conceivèd John,  
As it was prophesied ere long.'  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

Then said the maiden verily:  
'I am your servant right truly.  
*Ecce ancilla Domini.*<sup>4</sup>  
*Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.*

Words, XV CENTURY  
Music, JOHN SCOTT  
*Oxford University Press*

<sup>1</sup> News! news! 'Ave' ('Hail') is made from 'Eva' ('Eve')

<sup>2</sup> indeed

<sup>3</sup> thought

<sup>4</sup> Behold the handmaid of the Lord

## SIXTH LESSON

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READER: THE CHAPLAIN

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

LUKE 2

**A**ND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

---

I N 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.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

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.

Words, CHRISTINA ROSSETTI  
Music, HAROLD DARKE  
*Oxford University Press*

## CAROL

---

**D**ORMI, Jesu! Mater ridet  
Quae tam ducem somnum videt,  
Dormi, Jesu! blandule!

Si non dormis, Mater plorat  
Inter fila cantans orat,  
Blande, veni, somnule!

*Sleep, sweet babe! My cares beguiling:  
Mother sits beside thee smiling;  
Sleep, my darling, tenderly!*

*If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,  
Singing as her wheel she turneth:  
Come, soft slumber, balmily!*

THE VIRGIN'S CRADLE-HYMN

Words, from a print of the Virgin and Child, Germany  
translated, SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

Music, JOHN RUTTER  
*Oxford University Press*

*This carol was written for the Choir of King's  
College for 'Carols from King's' in 1998.*

## SEVENTH LESSON

---

READER: THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

LUKE 2

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

---

WE stood on the hills, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Watching the frosted meadows  
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,  
The air so still,  
Silence more lovely than music  
Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady,  
Shone in the night,  
Larger than Venus it was  
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,  
It seemed to us then,  
Telling of God being born  
In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Our love, our hopes, ourselves  
We give to your son.

THE SHEPHERD'S CAROL  
Words, CLIVE SANSOM  
Music, BOB CHILCOTT  
*Oxford University Press*

*This carol was composed for 'Carols from King's' in 2000.*

¶ Please wait until the organ has started playing before turning the page.



**PLEASE TURN OVER**

[HYMN OVERLEAF

## HYMN

---

♪ **Sung by all, standing.**

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first four staves are for voices, and the fifth is for piano accompaniment. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a triplet in the fourth staff.

**All**      **G**OD 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.*

**Choir** 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:

**All**              *O tidings of comfort and joy.*

---

**All** The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm, and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd Babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

**Choir** But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling  
Unto the Lord did pray:

**All** *O tidings of comfort and joy.*

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

Words and Music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL  
arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ **The congregation sits.**

## EIGHTH LESSON

---

READER: THE VICE PROVOST

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

MATTHEW 2

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

---

THE child on the dirtpath  
finds the highway blocked  
The dogs at the entrance  
snarl that doors are locked  
The great god of kindness  
has his kindness mocked  
*May those who travel light  
Find shelter on the flight  
May Bethlehem  
Give rest to them.*

The sea is a graveyard  
the beach is dry bones  
the child at the station  
is pelted with stones  
the cop stands impassive  
the ambulance drones

We sleep then awaken  
we rest on the way  
our sleep might be troubled  
but hope is our day  
we move on for ever  
like children astray

We move on for ever  
our feet leave no mark  
you won't hear our voices  
once we're in the dark  
but here is our fire  
this child is our spark.

THE FLIGHT  
Words, GEORGE SZIRTES  
Music, RICHARD CAUSTON  
*Oxford University Press*

*This carol has been commissioned  
by the College for today's service.*

## CAROL

---

**H**ERE is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold,  
Gold that was never bought nor sold;  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
Incense in clouds about his head;  
All for the child that stirs not in his sleep,  
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;  
See how his eyes awake, lift up your hand, O lift!  
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword  
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)  
For incense, smoke of battle red,  
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;  
Gifts for his children, terrible and sweet,  
Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.

Words, FRANCES CHESTERTON

Music, HERBERT HOWELLS

*Stainer & Bell*

¶ **All stand.**

## NINTH LESSON

---

READER: THE PROVOST

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

JOHN I

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

---

♩ Sung by all, standing. In verses 1 and 2 the first two lines of the refrain are sung by upper voices only.



**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.*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created.  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

---

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,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing.

*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

ADESTE FIDELES  
translated, FREDERICK OAKLEY  
Melody, JOHN FRANCIS WADE  
arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ **All remain standing.**

## COLLECT AND BLESSING

---

**Dean** The Lord be with you.

**All** **And with thy spirit.**

**Dean** Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**All** **Amen.**

**Dean**

**C**HRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**All** **Amen.**



**PLEASE TURN OVER**

[HYMN OVERLEAF

## HYMN

---

♪ Sung by all, standing.



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves. The top staff contains the melody, which begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The accompaniment on the lower staves provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**H**ARK! 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.*

---

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 Emmanuel.

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

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.*

Words, CHARLES WESLEY AND GEORGE WHITEFIELD  
Music, FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY  
Descant, DAVID WILLCOCKS  
*Oxford University Press*

¶ **All remain standing during the first organ voluntary,  
which is being broadcast.**

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

J. S. BACH

¶ **Please turn over.**

¶ **All remain standing for the second organ voluntary while the Choir and Clergy are followed out in order by the stewards, the Provost, the Mayoral party, the Vice-Provost, and Fellows of the College, with their guests.**

¶ **As the second organ voluntary is being recorded for future broadcast, the Chapel needs to remain as quiet as possible. Whether you leave at this point or prefer to sit until it is finished, please do not talk.**



¶ **Thank you for joining us today for this service. Please don't forget to contribute to the retiring collection as you leave the Chapel. If you would like to make a more considered or sustained financial contribution to help support the life of the Chapel or Choir, the Dean or Director of Music would be delighted to hear from you.**

*Sortie on 'In dulci jubilo'* has – in keeping with many of the choral works sung today – strong King's connections. First broadcast in the 2007 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, it was written by former King's Organ Scholar, David Briggs, and performed by Peter Stevens – who was Organ Scholar at King's at the same time as both the present holders of that position were choristers in the Choir.

DEAN  
THE REVEREND DR STEPHEN CHERRY

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
DR STEPHEN CLEOBURY

CHAPLAIN  
THE REVEREND ANDREW HAMMOND

ORGAN SCHOLARS  
TOM ETHERIDGE  
RICHARD GOWERS

DEAN'S VERGER  
IAN GRIFFITHS



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#### CHORISTERS AT KING'S

If you have a son in Years 2, 3 or 4 at school who likes singing and is enthusiastic about music, we encourage you to get in touch with Caroline in the Choir Office, who can tell you about the benefits that come with being a chorister, and answer your questions about life in King's College Choir and at King's College School.

Please email her at [choir@kings.cam.ac.uk](mailto:choir@kings.cam.ac.uk) or telephone  
01223 331224.

King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST  
[www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir)

The next chorister auditions are on  
**Saturday 23 January 2016.**