

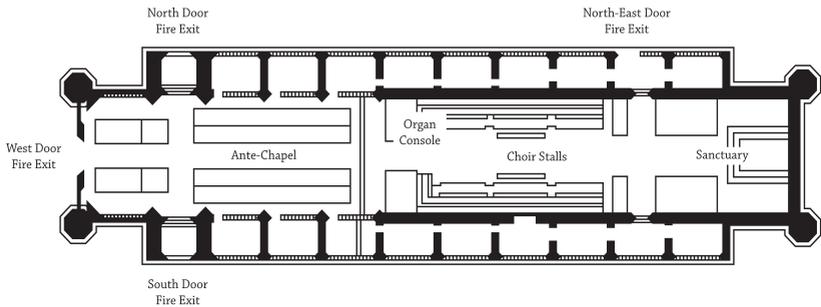
KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE
2009

EVACUATION ROUTES AND PROCEDURES



In the unlikely event that an emergency evacuation of the Chapel becomes necessary, an announcement will be made by either the Acting Dean or the Assistant Chaplain. Please follow his instructions and those of the Chapel stewards. Should there be anyone near you requiring assistance, please help, or draw the matter to the attention of the stewards. Please remain in your place until you are instructed by the stewards to leave the Chapel by one of the fire exits indicated above. Keep calm and quiet so that additional instructions can be heard. Once outside, make your way to the muster area on the back lawn next to the river where further instructions will be given. Should you want any assistance please speak to one of the stewards. Please attend carefully to all announcements for your own safety and that of others.



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: Nativity scene (King’s MS 37 f.36r).

Jesus walked through the whispering wood:
'I am pale blossom, I am blood berry...'

THE HEART-IN-WAITING
KEVIN CROSSLEY-HOLLAND
from Selected Poems
Enitharmon Press 2001

Text not given in full in this website version of the booklet due to copyright reasons.



At the request of the BBC
the service starts a little after 3 p.m.

In order not to spoil the service for other members of the congregation and radio listeners, please do not talk or cough unless it is absolutely necessary. Please turn off chiming digital watches and mobile phones.

KING'S COLLEGE CHOIR

The Director of Music, Stephen Cleobury, is always pleased to receive enquiries from potential members of the Choir.

Please telephone (+44 (0)1223 331224)
or write to him at the College for details.

King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST

Email: choir@kings.cam.ac.uk

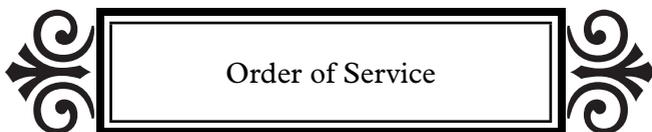
www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir

The next auditions for choristers are on **Saturday 16 January 2010.**

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

The Messiaen pieces are from *La Nativité du Seigneur*.

Toccatà, Adagio and Fugue in C	BWV 564	J. S. BACH
Les bergers		MESSIAEN
Variations sur un Noël		DUPRÉ
<i>from</i> Symphonie No. 1 in d Pastorale		VIERNE
Les mages		MESSIAEN
Desseins éternels		MESSIAEN



Order of Service

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. All join in singing the last four verses.

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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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
Harmony, HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT AND ARTHUR HENRY MANN
Arrangement, STEPHEN CLEOBURY
Novello

BIDDING PRAYER

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

Acting Dean

BELOVED 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:

Our Father ...

All

OUR 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.

Acting Dean

THE 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

DING! Dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angels 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, XVI CENTURY FRENCH

Arrangement, MACK WILBERG

Oxford University Press

FIRST LESSON

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

AND 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

THE tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of Nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all, but now I see,
'Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

JESUS CHRIST, THE APPLE TREE
Words, ANON., COLLECTION OF JOSHUA SMITH,
NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1784
Music, ELIZABETH POSTON
Cambridge University Press

CAROL

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 clerkes 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, PHILIP LEDGER
Oxford University Press

SECOND LESSON

READER: A CHORAL SCHOLAR

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

GENESIS 22

AND 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

IN *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 always;
Listen to my ditty,
O Puer optime,
Have pity on me, pity,
O princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te!

O Patris caritas,
O Nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stained
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!

Words, XV CENTURY GERMAN
Arrangement, ROBERT LUCAS DE PEARSALL
Edition, REGINALD JACQUES
Oxford University Press

CAROL

FIX on one star, at last,
Any star
In the circling star blizzard.
That star will take you
Whithersoever
To Death and Birth and Love.

Folded it is now, the dove,
Furled, star-folded.
The black rain falls,
The bitter floods rise still.
What hand
Will take the branch from the dove's beak?

We stand, three vagrants, at the last door.
A black fist
Lingers, a star, on withered wood.

Words, GEORGE MACKAY BROWN
Music, PETER MAXWELL DAVIES
Chester Music

*This carol was commissioned by the College for
the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in 1984.*

THIRD LESSON

READER: A MEMBER OF COLLEGE STAFF

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

ISAIAH 9

THE 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, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Arrangement, DAVID WILLCOCKS
Oxford University Press

HYMN

‡ Sung by all, standing.

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 blessèd 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.*

[CONTINUED]

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, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Arrangement, DAVID WILLCOCKS
Oxford University Press

¶ The congregation sits.

FOURTH LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY
OF CAMBRIDGE

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ISAIAH II

AND 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

THERE is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space;
*Res miranda.*¹

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
*Pari forma.*²

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo
*Gaudeamus.*³

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
*Transeamus.*⁴

Words, XV CENTURY CENTURY ENGLISH
Music, MEDIEVAL
Oxford University Press

¹ A marvellous thing

² Equal in form

³ Let us rejoice

⁴ Let us cross

CAROL

DET är en ros utsprungen av Jesse rotoch stam.
Av fädren ren besjungen den står i tiden fram,
En blomma skär och blid,
Mitt i den kalla vinter i midnatts mörka tid.

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

GERMAN TRADITIONAL
Swedish translation, THEKLA KNÖS
English translation, THEODORE BAKER
Music, MICHAEL PRAETORIUS
Arrangement, JAN SANDSTRÖM
Gerhmans Musikförlag

FIFTH LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR SISTER COLLEGE
AT ETON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

LUKE I

AND 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

SOFTLY a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly
Her King of kings.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

Mary her song to Jesus
Softly, serenely sings:
'I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify, magnify
My King of kings.'

MARY'S MAGNIFICAT
Words and Music, ANDREW CARTER
Oxford University Press

CAROL

THE first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When he was first her son:
*When he was first her son, good man,
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of two;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the lame to go:
*To make the lame to go, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of three;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the blind to see:
*To make the blind to see, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of four;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To read the Bible o'er:
*To read the Bible o'er, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of five;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To bring the dead alive:

*To bring the dead alive, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of six;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
Upon the crucifix:

*Upon the crucifix, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of seven;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To wear the crown of heaven:

*To wear the crown of heaven, good man:
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
To all eternity.*

JOYS SEVEN
Words, TRADITIONAL
Arrangement, STEPHEN CLEOBURY
Oxford University Press

SIXTH LESSON

READER: THE ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

LUKE 2

AND 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

INFANT holy, Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

POLISH TRADITIONAL
Translation, EDITH REED
Arrangement, DAVID WILLCOCKS
Oxford University Press

CAROL

IL est né le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes;
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement.

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous le promettaient les prophètes,
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah, que ses grâces sont parfaites!
Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Qu'il est doux, ce divin enfant!

Une étable est son logement,
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,
Une étable est son logement,
Pour un Dieu quel abaissement!

O Jésus, roi tout puissant,
Si petit enfant que vous êtes;
O Jésus, roi tout puissant,
Régnez sur nous entièrement.

*He is born, the divine Christ-child,
Sound forth the oboes with pipes replying;
He is born, the divine Christ-child,
Sing we praise to the infant mild.*

*More than four thousand years on earth,
Seers his advent were prophesying;
More than four thousand years on earth,
Man awaited this joyous birth.*

*O what beauty and charm are thine,
Heav'nly grace to our hearts supplying;
O what beauty and charm are thine,
O what sweetness, thou Child divine!*

*In a manger thou deignst to be,
Straw the bed whereon thou art lying;
In a manger thou deignst to be,
For a God, what humility!*

*Jesu, King, whom we bow before,
Yet an infant all power denying;
Jesu, King, whom we bow before,
Rule our hearts now and evermore.*

FRENCH TRADITIONAL
Translation and arrangement, DAVID WILLCOCKS
Oxford University Press

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

THE Christ Child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ Child lay on Mary's breast,
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ Child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ Child stood at Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him
And all the stars looked down.

Words, GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON
Music, GABRIEL JACKSON
Oxford University Press

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

HYMN

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.’

‘To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:’

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

Words, NAHUM TATE
Music, ESTE’S PSALTER, 1592
Arrangement, STEPHEN CLEOBURY
Novello

¶ **The congregation sits.**

EIGHTH LESSON

READER: THE LAY DEAN

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

MATTHEW 2

NOW 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

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

PERSONENT hodie
Voces puerulae,
Laudantes iucunde
Qui nobis est natus,
Summo Deo datus,
Et de virgineo
Ventre procreatus.

In mundo nascitur;
Pannis involvitur;
Praesepe ponitur
Stabulo brutorum
Rector supernorum;
Perdidit spolia
Princeps infernorum.

Magi tres venerunt;
Munera offerunt;
Parvulum inquirunt,
Stellulam sequendo,
Ipsam adorando,
Aurum, thus et myrrham
Ei offerendo.

Omnes clericuli,
Pariter pueri,
Cantent ut angeli:
‘Advenisti mundo:
Laudes tibi fundo
Ideo: Gloria
In excelsis Deo.’

[TRANSLATION

Today let the voices of children resound in joyful praise of Him who is born for us, given by God on high and brought forth from a virgin's womb.

He is born upon earth and is wrapped in swaddling clothes: in a manger is He placed, the Ruler of Heaven in a stable of beasts. The Prince of Hell hath lost his spoils.

Three kings have come bringing gifts: they search out the little one by following the star. They worship Him and give Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Let all priests and with them the children sing with the angels: 'Thou hast come down to earth; we therefore pour forth our praise to thee. Glory to God in the highest.'

Words, PIAE CANTIONES, 1582
Translation, AIDAN OLIVER
Music, GERMAN, 1360
Arrangement, GUSTAV HOLST
Oxford University Press

¶ All stand.

NINTH LESSON

READER: THE PROVOST

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

JOHN I

IN 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.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
In the highest.'

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

ADESTE FIDELES
Translation, FREDERICK OAKLEY
Melody, JOHN FRANCIS WADE
Arrangement, DAVID WILLCOCKS
Oxford University Press

¶ **All remain standing.**

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Acting Dean The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Acting 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.

Acting Dean

CHRIST, 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.

HYMN

‡ Sung by all, standing.

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.*

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-BARTHOLODY
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 do not talk during the second organ voluntary, which is being recorded for broadcast on Christmas Day.

Toccat-Gigue on The Sussex Carol

BAKER

¶ After the first voluntary 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.

¶ Members of the congregation who wish to leave at this point should do so silently. Those remaining are invited to be seated.

¶ After the service a retiring collection is taken for the maintenance of the Chapel. If you prefer to contribute by cheque, please make cheques payable to King's College, Cambridge and send it to:

THE ACTING DEAN
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