A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in King’s College Chapel upon Christmas Eve 1918
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ORDER OF SERVICE

I. This service was drawn up from sources ancient and modern by Archbishop Benson for Cathedral use, the Lessons, which tell the whole story of our Redemption, being read in order by the Cathedral ministers from chorister to Bishop. In this Chapel it is adapted also to symbolise and express the loving bond between the two Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton, the goodwill between University and Town, and peace within the whole Church of the Lord Jesus, as well the joy and worship of us all at the coming of our Christ.

II. The congregation should stand for the Benedictions and Carols, and also for the Sixth Lesson. Its members should join heartily in the singing of the hymns and verses specially marked for that purpose.

III. A Collection will be made during the Fourth and Sixth Carols out of which grants will be made to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, and to the Cambridge Children's Convalescent Home at Hunstanton.

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INVITATORY CAROL.

Up! Good Christian folk, and listen. 16th Century

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong: Ding-a-dong-ding:
Upl! good Christen
Folk, and listen
How the merry Church bells ring,
And from steeple
Bid good people
Come adore the new-born King:
Tell the story
How from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide;
Born of mother,
Blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgin,
In a stable
("Tis no stable),
Christus natus hodie.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN.

Once in Royal David's City. 20th Century

1. Once in royal David's city
   Stood a lowly cattle shed,
   Where a Mother laid her Baby
   In a manger for his bed:
   Mary was that Mother mild,
   Jesus Christ her little Child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
   Who is God and Lord of all,
   And his shelter was a stable,
   And his cradle was a stall;
   With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
   Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood
   He would honour and obey,
   Love, and watch the lowly Maiden,
   In whose gentle arms he lay;
   Christian children all must be
   Mild, obedient, good as he.

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

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
   Through his own redeeming love,
   For that Child so dear and gentle
   Is our Lord in heaven above;
   And he leads his children on
   To the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
   With the oxen standing by,
   We shall see him; but in heaven,
   Set at God's right hand on high;
   When like stars his children crowned
   All in white shall wait around.

C. Then all standing shall be said this Bidding Prayer:

THE BIDDING PRAYER.

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and 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.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child: and let us make this Chapel, dedicated to His pure and lowly Mother, glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us pray to Him for the needs of the whole world, and all His people; for peace upon the earth He came to save; for love and unity within the one Church He did build; for brotherhood and goodwill amongst all men, and especially within the dominions of our sovereign lord King George, within this University and Town of Cambridge, and in the two royal and religious Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton.

And particularly at this time let us remember before Him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those 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 Him them 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, 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN.

A Great and Mighty Wonder.

A GREAT and mighty wonder,
A full and holy care!
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!
"To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!"

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And Cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans clap your hands.

Since all he comes to ransom,
By all he be adored,
The Infant born in Bethlehem,
The Saviour and the Lord.

And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.

CAROL.

A Virgin most Pure.

A virgin most pure, as the prophet do tell,
Hath brought forth a baby as it hath beheld,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,
Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in:

Aye and therefore be merry, set sorrow aside;
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this side.

At Bethlehem in Jewry a city there was,
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass.
And there to be taxed with many a moe,
For Caesar commanded the same should be so:

But when they had entered the city so fair,
A number of people so mighty was there,
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
Could find in the inn there no lodging at all:

Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,
Where horses and asses they used for to tie;
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn;
But against the next morning our Saviour was born.

GOD, the Son of GOD, vouchsafe to bless and aid us. Amen.

SECOND LESSON GEN. XXII. 15-18

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

READER: A CHAPEL CLERK.

CAROL.

Blessed be that Maid Marie.

BLESSED be that Maid Marie;
Born He was of her body;
Very God ere time began,
Born in time the Son of Man.

E Eis! Iesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.

In a manger of an ass
Jesus lay and lullèd was;
Born to die upon the Tree
Pro peccatorum homine.

Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the Angel throng,
‘Peace on earth,’ Allelujah.
In excelsis gloria.
Fare three Kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlehem the Babe they see,
Stelle duci lumine.

Make we merry on this fest,
In quo Christus natus est;
On this Child I pray you call,
To assisal and save us all.

May the grace of the Holy Ghost enlighten us heart and body. Amon.

THIRD LESSON ISAIAH IX. 2, 6, 7
Christ's birth and kingdom is foretold by Isaiah.

READER: AN UNDERGRADUATE MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE.

CAROL. As up the wood I took my way. 20th Century
Martin Shaw

A
s up the wood I took my way,
The oaks were brown and bare,
And all about the snow was white,
The snow was white,
The snow was white;
And all about the snow was white,
And bitter blew the air.

As up the wood I took my way
The night began to fall,
When out a star shone fair and bright,
Shone fair and bright,
Shone fair and bright;
When out a star shone fair and bright,
And I heard a sweet voice call.

‘Come on, come on, thou weary man,’
The sweet voice cried to me,
‘For in yon shed where the cattle are,
The cattle are,
The cattle are;
For in yon shed where the cattle are,
I have good sight for thee.’

Then suddenly grew the snow to rose,
The bare oaks grew to green,
The bitter wind was a gentle air,
A gentle air,
A gentle air,
The bitter wind was a gentle air,
And I felt not fear or teen.

For golden Gabriel took my hand,
And brought me to the shed,
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary;
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
And rocked Lord Jesus' bed.

Then hie! good shepherds and masters mine,
We'll cease to moil and grieve;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
The Lord of all,
The Lord of all;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
And this is Christmas Eve!

The Almighty Lord bless us with His grace. Amon.

FOURTH LESSON MICAH V. 2, 3, 4
The prophet Micah foreseeth the glory of little Bethlehem.

READER: A FELLOW.

CAROL. While Shepherds watched. Eise's Psalter 1592
Words, 17th Century

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;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

[ 9 ]
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON ST LUKE I. 26-33 and 38
The Angel Gabriel visiteth the Blessed Virgin Mary.
READER: THE VICAR-PROVOST.

CAROL.

Unto us is born a Son.
Words & Melody 14th Century

Unto us is born a Son,
King of Queses supernal;
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from Heav’n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger,
Ox and ass their owner know,
Beckoned in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary’s gentle child
Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

By the words of God’s Gospel be our sins blotted out. Amen.

SIXTH LESSON ST JOHN I. 1-14
The Congregation should stand for this Lesson.
READER: A FREE CHURCH MINISTER.

CAROL. O Come, all ye faithful. 18th Century

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.

May the fountain of the Gospel fill us with the doctrine of Heaven. Amen.

SEVENTH LESSON ST LUKE II. 8-16
The Shepherds go unto the Manger.
READER: THE MAYOR’S CHAPLAIN.

CAROLS.

O Night, Peaceful and Blest. Old Carol of Basse- Normandie

O night, peaceful and blest!
For now Jesus doth rest,
Near His fond watchful mother!
Soft light o’er Him doth shine,
Around, bright angels hover,
He is the Child Divine.

Childing of a Maiden Bright. Melody 14th Century

Childing of a maiden bright
Life to-day hath brought to light;
And hath put that prince of might
With his flock of shepherds to light:
Christus natus hodie.

Whoso aught hath done amiss,
An it rue him sore for this,
Mary’s Babe will shrive iwis,
Gentle as a lamb He is:
Miserere, Domine.
unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the king of angels bring us all. Amen.

ninth lesson galatians iv. 4-7

God make us sons through Christ.

reader: the provost.

Carol. G. the congregation should sing the last verse by themselves, and the refrain throughout.

the first rowell.

the first rowell that the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
in a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night;
And by the light of that same star
There came three wise men from countries far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wheresoever it went:
This star drew nigh to the north-west,
And at Bethlehem Jery she took up her rest;
And there she dwell both stop and stay.
Right over the house where the king did lay:
Then entered in these wise men three,
Most reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense:
Now let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Which hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And by his blood mankind hath bought.

G. during the last verse, the choir proceeds to the altar, and there sings

the magnificat.

my soul doth magnify the Lord;
my spirit evermore rejoiceth in the Lord my God,
which is my Saviour.
And why? Because He did regard
and gave respect unto
so base estate of His handmaid
and let the mighty go.
COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son, to take our nature upon him, and at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you; the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace, now and evermore. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN. 6. To be sung by all.

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
Of the seed 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.

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.