

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL
OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE

2000



OUR 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 our 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 some carols have been changed and some new ones 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; 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 suggestion 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 and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. 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 digital recording 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 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.

RUN, shepherds, run, where Bethlem blest appears,
We bring the best of news, be not dismayed,
A Saviour there is born, more old than years,
Amidst heaven's rolling heights this earth who stayed.
In a poor cottage inned, a virgin maid
A weakling did him bear, who all upbears;
There is he, poorly swaddled, in manger laid,
To whom too narrow swaddlings are our spheres:
Run, shepherds run, and solemnize his birth,
This is that night – no, day, grown great with bliss,
In which the power of Satan broken is;
In heaven be glory, peace unto the earth!
Thus singing, through the air the angels swam,
And cope of stars re-echoèd the same.

From 'Flowres of Sion', 1630
WILLIAM DRUMMOND



**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.

¶ The congregation is silent during the organ music before the service.

Toccatà in F BWV 540 J. S. BACH

Two Meditations from OLIVIER MESSIAEN
'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Le Verbe
Les Bergers

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 J. S. BACH

Weihnachten Op. 145 No. 3 MAX RAGER

Noël Suisse No. 12 LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

Canonic Variations on 'Vom Himmel hoch,
da komm' ich her' BWV 769 J. S. BACH

Two Meditations from OLIVIER MESSIAEN
'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Les Enfants de Dieu
Les Mages

Adeste fideles JEANNE DEMESSIEUX

In dulci jubilo BUXWV 197 DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

From 'La Nativité du Seigneur' OLIVIER MESSIAEN

Desseins éternels

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ The congregation stands as the choir and clergy proceed from the vestry to the West Door, so that all may be silent when the hymn starts. All join in singing the last four verses of the hymn.

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, C. F. ALEXANDER
Melody, H. J. GAUNTLETT
Harmonised, H. J. GAUNTLETT
 and A. H. MANN
Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY
Encore Publications

BIDDING PRAYER

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

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 with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 in company with the whole Church let us make this chapel, dedicated to his pure and lowly 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; within 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 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; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that he hath made.

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 ...*

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.

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. *Amen.*

¶ **The congregation sits.**

CAROL

IN 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, C. ROSSETTI
Music, H. DARKE
Stainer & Bell

¶ Please wait until the choir has finished singing each piece before turning the pages as quietly as possible.

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 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

CAROLS

THE Lord at first did Adam make
Out of the dust and clay,
And in his nostrils breathed life,
E'en as the scriptures say.
And then in Eden's paradise
He placèd him to dwell,
That he within it should remain,
To dress and keep it well:

*Now let good Christians wake from sleep,
Let darkness turn to day,
And sinners find in mutual love
The straight and glorious way.*

Now mark the goodness of the Lord
Which he to mankind bore;
His mercy soon he did extend,
Lost man for to restore:
And then, for to redeem our souls
From death and hellish thrall,
He said his own dear Son should be
The Saviour of us all:

Now for the blessings we enjoy,
Which are from heaven above,
Let us renounce all wickedness,
And live in perfect love:
Then shall we do Christ's own command,
E'en his own written word;
And when we die, in heaven shall
Enjoy our living Lord:

And now the tide is nigh at hand,
In which our Saviour came;
Let us rejoice and merry be
In keeping of the same:
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls,
And such as do it crave;
Then when we die, in heaven we
Our sure reward shall have:

Words, *Some Ancient Christmas Carols, 1822*

DAVIES GILBERT AND OTHERS

Music, TRADITIONAL, arr., S. J. CLEOBURY

Oxford University Press

ADAM 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, 15TH CENTURY

Music, P. WARLOCK

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 & CHORALE

ANGELS, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang Creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth!

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

Sages, leave your contemplations:
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the Great Desire of Nations:
Ye have seen his natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear:
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.

Words, J. MONTGOMERY
Music, OLD FRENCH TUNE
Arr., P. S. LEDGER
Oxford University Press

How shall I fitly meet Thee,
And give Thee welcome due?
The nations long to greet Thee,
And I would greet Thee too.
O Fount of light, shine brightly
Upon my darken'd heart;
That I may serve Thee rightly,
And know Thee as Thou art.

Music, J. S. BACH
from *Christmas Oratorio*
Novello

THIRD LESSON

READER: A MEMBER OF 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

NOWELL sing we now all and some,
For *Rex pacificus* is come.

In Bethlem in that fair city,
A child was born of a maiden free,
That shall a lord and princë be,
A solis ortus cardine.

Children were slain full great plenty,
Jesu, for the love of thee;
Wherefore their soulës savëd be,
Hostis Herodis impie.

As sunnë shineth through the glass,
So Jesu in his mother was;
Thee to servë now grant us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.

Now God is comën to worshipën us;
Now of Mary is born Jesus;
Make we merry amongës us;
Exultet celum laudibus.

Words and Music, MEDIEVAL
Ed., J. STEVENS
Stainer & Bell

HYMN

¶ **Sung by the choir and congregation, standing.**

IT 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 blessed angels sing.

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, E. SEARS
ENGLISH TRADITIONAL MELODY
Arr., A. SULLIVAN
Oxford University Press

¶ **The congregation sits.**

FOURTH LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY

*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

R^{IU, riu, chiu,}
*La guarda ribera:
Dios guardo el lobo
De nuestra cordera.*

El lobo rabioso
La quiso morder,
Mas Dios poderoso
La supo defender;
Quisole hazer que
No pudiesse pecar,
Ni aun original
Esta Virgen no tuviera.

Este ques naçido
Es el gran Monarcha,
Christo patriarca
De carne vestido;
Hanos redimido
Con se hazer chiquito:
Aunque era infinito
Finito se hiziera.

Muchas profeçias
Lohan profetizado;
Y aun en nuestros dias
Lo hemos alcançado.
A Dios humanado
Vemos en el suelo
Y al hombre en el çielo
Porque el le quisiera.

Riu, riu, chiu, the guard [shepherd] by the river: God protected our Ewe from the wolf.

The furious wolf tried to bite her, but almighty God protected her well: He made her in such a way that she could know no sin, a virgin unstained by our first father's [Adam's] fault.

This new-born Child is a mighty monarch, the patriarchal Christ clothed in flesh; He redeemed us by making himself tiny: He who was infinite became finite.

Many prophecies foretold His coming, and now in our time we have seen them fulfilled. God became man, we see Him on earth, and we see man in heaven because He [God] loved Him.

From VILLANCICOS DE DIVERSOS AUTORES, VENICE, 1556

Words trans., H. KEYTE and A. PARROTT,

after R. PRING-MILL

Music attrib., MATEO FLECHA THE ELDER

Oxford University Press

CAROL

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

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,
The blessèd Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

¶ **The second verse is repeated.**

Words, 15TH CENTURY GERMAN
Trans., C. WINKWORTH
Music, H. HOWELLS
Stainer & Bell

FIFTH LESSON

READER: THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed
Virgin Mary.* ST 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

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.'

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.'

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, S. BARING-GOULD
Music, OLD BASQUE
Arr., E. PETTMAN
University Carol Book: Freeman

CAROL

THE first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of one;
To see the blessèd Jesus Christ
When he was first her son:
*When he was first her son, good man;
And blessèd 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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

JOYS SEVEN
TRADITIONAL
Arr., S. J. CLEOBURY
Oxford University Press

SIXTH LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBRIDGE
CHURCHES

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. ST 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

SLEEP little Jesus, my gentle dove,
Sleep dearest treasure and precious love.
Sleep little Lord Jesus, hush don't you cry,
Mary will comfort you with her lullaby.
Look down from Heaven all over this earth,
Bless us with happiness, good will and mirth.

Lulajże Jezuniu.

TRADITIONAL POLISH

Trans., A. KASPSZYK

Arr., R. PANUFNIK

Alfred A. Kalmus

CAROL

IN *dulci jubilo*
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;
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!

14TH CENTURY GERMAN
Arr., R. L. DE PEARSALL
Ed., R. JACQUES
Oxford University Press

SEVENTH LESSON

READER: A FELLOW

The shepherds go to the manger. ST 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

I WONDER as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
and promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN
Arr., C. RUTTI
Escorial Edition

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, N. TATE
Music, ESTE’S PSALTER, 1592
Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY
Encore Publications

¶ **The congregation sits.**

EIGHTH LESSON

READER: THE VICE-PROVOST

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

Solo **T**HREE kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Chorale (sung at the same time as the above).

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thy word, Jesu,
Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us,
Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing.

Words, P. CORNELIUS and P. NICOLAI

Trans., H. N. BATE

Music, P. CORNELIUS

Arr., I. ATKINS

Oxford University Press

CAROL

THE first king was very young,
With doleful ballads on his tongue,
He came bearing a branch of myrrh
Than which no gall is bitterer,

*O balow, balow la lay,
Gifts for a baby King, O.*

The second king was a man in prime,
The solemn priest of a solemn time,
With eyes downcast and reverent feet
He brought his incense sad and sweet,

The third king was very old,
Both his hands were full of gold,
Many a gaud and glittering toy,
Baubles brave for a baby boy.

THE THREE KINGS (1916)
Words, D. L. SAYERS
Music, J. DOVE
Peters Edition

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

¶ **The congregation stands.**

NINTH LESSON

READER: THE PROVOST

*St John unfolds the great mystery of
the Incarnation.* ST 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
Words trans., F. OAKELEY
Melody, J. F. WADE
Arr., S. J. CLEOBURY
Encore Publications

PRAYER & BLESSING

¶ **All remain standing.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: 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.

MAY he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

HYMN

¶ **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,
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!

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, C. WESLEY and G. WHITEFIELD
Music, J. L. F. MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY
Encore Publications

¶ All remain standing during the first organ voluntary which is being broadcast. After this the choir and clergy are followed out in order by the stewards, the Provost, 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.

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

¶ A retiring collection is taken for the Save the Children Fund. Those who wish to contribute by cheque are asked to make it payable to 'Save the Children' and send it to Mary Datchelor House, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD.



¶ The congregation is silent during the organ music after the service.

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

J. S. BACH

From 'La Nativité du Seigneur'

OLIVIER MESSIAEN

Dieu parmi nous

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