

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL
OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE

2001



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.

TO-NIGHT ungather'd let us leave
This laurel, let this holly stand:
We live within the stranger's land,
And strangely falls our Christmas-eve.

Our father's dust is left alone
And silent under other snows:
There in due time the woodbine blows,
The violet comes, but we are gone.

No more shall wayward grief abuse
The genial hour with mask and mime;
For change of place, like growth of time,
Has broke the bond of dying use.

Let cares that petty shadows cast,
By which our lives are chiefly proved,
A little spare the night I loved,
And hold it solemn to the past.

But let no footstep beat the floor,
Nor bowl of wassail mantle warm;
For who would keep an ancient form
Thro' which the spirit breathes no more?

Be neither song, nor game, nor feast;
Nor harp be touch'd, nor flute be blown;
No dance, no motion, save alone
What lightens in the lucid east

Of rising worlds by yonder wood.
Long sleeps the summer in the seed;
Run out your measured arcs, and lead
The closing cycle rich in good.

'IN MEMORIAM, CV'
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON



**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.**

Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541 J. S. BACH

Two Meditations from OLIVIER MESSIAEN
'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Les Mages

Les Anges

In dulci jubilo BuxWV 197 DIDERIK BUXTEHUDE

Variations sur on vieux Noël Op. 20 MARCEL DUPRE

Noël Suisse No. 12 LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

Weihnachten Op. 145 No. 3 MAX REGER

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

Two Meditations from OLIVIER MESSIAEN
'La Nativité du Seigneur'

Les Bergers

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.

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 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 ...

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.

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

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

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

CAROL

THIS 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
Arr., R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Stainer & Bell

CAROL

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, B. ORD
Oxford University Press

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

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

NATURE'S decorations glisten
Far above their usual trim;
Birds on box and laurels listen,
As so near the cherubs hymn.

Boreas now no longer winters
On the desolated coast;
Oaks no more are riv'n in splinters
By the whirlwind and his host.

Spinks and ouzles sing sublimely,
'We too have a Saviour born';
Whiter blossoms burst untimely
On the blest Mosaic thorn.

God all-bounteous, all creative,
Whom no ills from good dissuade,
Is incarnate, and a native
Of the very world he made.

SPRING IN WINTER

Words, C. SMART

From, *Hymn 32: The Nativity of Our Lord
and Saviour Jesus Christ*

Music, J. WOOLRICH

Faber Music

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

CAROL

I SAW three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?

O, they sailed into Bethlehem,

And all the bells on earth shall ring,

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,

And all the souls on earth shall sing,

Then let us all rejoice amain!

Words, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL

Arr., S. J. PRESTON

Novello

THIRD LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR SISTER
COLLEGE AT ETON

*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

JERUSALEM rejos for joy:
Jesus, the sterne¹ of most bewte
in thee is rissin as richtous roy²,
fro dirkness to illumyne thee.
With gloriuis sound of angell gle
thy prince is borne in Baithlem
which sall thee mak of thraldome fre,
Illuminare Jerusalem.

With angellis licht in legionis
thou art illumynit all about.
Thre kingis of strenge regionis
to thee ar cumin with lusty rout,
all drest with dyamantis,
reverst with gold in every hem,
sounding attonis³ with a schout,

The regeand tarrant that in thee rang,
Herod, is exilit and his ofspring,
The land of Juda that josit⁴ wrang,
and rissin is now thy richtous king.
So he so mychtie is and ding⁵,
when men his gloriuis name dois nem,
hevin erd and hell makis inclyning.

ILLUMINARE JERUSALEM

Words, Bannatyne MS in *A Choice of
Scottish Verse 1470–1570* ed., MacQueen, Faber, adapted

Music, J. WEIR
Novello

¹ star

² king

³ at once, altogether

⁴ held, harboured

⁵ worthy

*This carol was commissioned by the College
for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in 1985*

HYMN

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

All **O** LITTLE town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee to-night.

All O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy Birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary,
 And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wondering love.

Choir How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
 But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.

[VERSE 4

All

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Words, P. BROOKS

Music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL

Arr., R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Descant, T. ARMSTRONG

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

CAROL

LITTLE Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is callèd by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child;
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are callèd by his name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

THE LAMB
Words, W. BLAKE
Music, J. TAVENER
Chester Music

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

I SING of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.

He came all so still
Where his mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still
To his mother's bower,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still
Where his mother lay,
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
God's mother be.

Words, 15TH CENTURY
Music, P. HADLEY
Aschenberg, Hopwood & Crew

CAROL

JOSEPH was an old man
and an old man was he,
When he wedded Mary,
in the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked
through an orchard good,
Where was cherries and berries,
so red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary,
so meek and oh, so mild:
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph,
for I am with child.'

O then bespoke Joseph,
with words most unkind:
'Let him pluck thee a cherry
that brought thee with child.'

O then bespoke the baby,
within his mother's womb:
'Bow down then the tallest tree,
for my mother to have some.'

Then bowed down the highest tree
unto his mother's hand;
Then she cried, 'See, Joseph,
I have cherries at command.'

O then bespoke Joseph:
'I have done Mary wrong;
But cheer up, my dearest,
and be ye not cast down.'

Then Mary plucked a cherry,
as red as any blood,
Then Mary she went homewards
all with her heavy load.

THE CHERRY TREE CAROL
Words and music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Arr., S. J. CLEOBURY
Oxford University Press

SIXTH LESSON

READER: A MEMBER OF STAFF

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

CAROLS

DORMI, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem 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, Germany
Trans., S. T. COLERIDGE
Music, E. RUBBRA
Oxford University Press

ALLELUIA! I bring you news of great joy,
today a Saviour has been born for us,
Christ the Lord,
Alleluia!

ALLELUIA! I BRING YOU NEWS OF GREAT JOY
Words, THE SUNDAY MISSAL
Music, F. GRIER
Faber Music

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

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, ANON.
Music, R. L. CHILCOTT
Oxford University Press

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

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.*

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

Arr., D. V. WILLCOCKS

Oxford University Press

¶ **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

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 was commissioned by the College for
the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in 2000***

CAROL

TOMORROW shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

Words, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Music, J. GARDNER
Oxford University Press

¶ **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.**

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:

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.

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 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.

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

Carillon-Sortie

HENRI MULET

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