

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve 2018 at 3 pm

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

Before the service begins, please note the following requests:

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

Finally, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and invite you to join us for any of our choral services in the future, in particular our Sung Eucharist with Carols at 11.00 am on Christmas Day.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean

A HUNDRED YEARS OF 'CARE AND DELIGHT'

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918: thus the centenary is reached in today's service, as it was for the Armistice a month ago. 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. (Milner-White also 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 Choir was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, who had been Organist since 1876, and was very dubious about this innovation. It 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. Today the Choral Scholars are all undergraduates.

Since 1919 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, 1876–1929; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (Ord's substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Sir Philip Ledger, 1974–82 and, since 1982, Stephen Cleobury. Today is Stephen's final Christmas Eve at King's: an occasion on which to note his remarkable tenure with immense gratitude.

The 1918 service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the large 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. Very soon other churches adapted the service for their own use. In the immediate aftermath of the First World War, Milner-White decided that A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols would be a more uplifting occasion at King’s than Evensong on Christmas Eve. He used Benson’s plan, but wrote the now-classic Bidding Prayer to set the tone at the beginning. Since then the spoken parts, which provide the backbone of the service, have only occasionally changed.

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, EMI and, more recently, on the College’s own record label have also served to spread its fame.

From time to time the College receives copies of services held many thousands of miles from Cambridge, and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One

correspondent wrote of hearing the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy with 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 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 upon 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.

‘O MERCY DIVINE’: A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

The words of ‘O Mercy Divine’ come from a collection called ‘Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord’ by the Revd Charles Wesley (1707–1788). I have set to music nine of its fifteen brief, almost haiku-like verses, whose theme is the humble circumstance of Jesus’ birth and the important example this sets for mankind. Beginning in the stable, the view widens to the sky, with singing angels in it, followed by the arrival of the wise men, whose grand appearance in the inn is not incongruous; because, as the poet says, ‘The inn is a palace, for Jesus is there’. The carol includes a solo cello playing a generally fast-moving, bass-register accompaniment, intended as a musical ‘flying carpet’, on which the Choir can comfortably tread and later float above.

Judith Weir (KC 1973)
Master of the Queen’s Music



Photograph by Benjamin Ealovaga

A full list of the carols commissioned by King’s College for Christmas is given at the end of this Order of Service.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Toccatà, Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564 *Bach*

Les Bergers (from 'La Nativité du Seigneur') *Messiaen*

In dulci júbilo BuxWV 197 *Buxtehude*

Vom himmel hoch, da komm ich her BWV 606 *Bach*

Incarnation with Shepherds dancing *Bingham*

¶ *All stand for the High Sheriff's Procession, during which is played:*

Herr Christ, der einge Gottessohn BWV 601 *Bach*

¶ *All sit when invited to do so by the stewards.*

Les Anges (from 'La Nativité') *Messiaen*

Puer natus in Bethlehem BWV 603 *Bach*

Vom himmel kam der Engel Schar BWV 607 *Bach*

Le Verbe (from 'La Nativité') *Messiaen*

Front cover illustration: Mary with the infant Jesus in glory (King's MS 37 f.20v).

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ *The congregation will be invited to stand when the Choir is ready in the Ante-Chapel, so that all may be silent when the hymn starts. All join in singing at the third verse.*

Solo

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.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern:
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children, crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

¶ *All remain standing.*

THE BIDDING PRAYER

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.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
 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.*

INVITATORY CAROL

Ding-dong-ding:

Ding-a-dong-a-ding: Ding-dong, ding-dong:

Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! 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 Virgine,
in a stable
('tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

[from the Virgin Mary]

[Christ is born today]

Words and harmony: G. R. Woodward

Melody: Piae Cantiones, 1582

FIRST LESSON

¶ *read by a Chorister.*

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

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.

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

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.

Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19

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 clerkes finden
written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
the apple taken been,
ne had never our lady
a been heavené queen.

Blessed be the time
that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias.

[thanks be to God]

Words: Anon, 15th century

Music: Boris Ord

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

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.

Words: anon., Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire

Music: Elizabeth Poston

SECOND LESSON

¶ *read by a Choral Scholar.*

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

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.

Genesis 22.15–18

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

CAROL

In dulci jubilo *[in sweet jubilation]*
let us our homage shew;
our heart's joy reclineth
in praeseptio, *[in the manger]*
and like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio. *[on his mother's lap]*
Alpha es et O. *[you are Alpha and Omega]*

O Jesu parvule! *[O infant Jesus]*
I yearn for thee alway!
Comfort my heart's blindness,
O Puer optime! *[O child most excellent]*
With all thy loving-kindness,
O princeps gloriae! *[O prince of glory]*
Trahe me post te! *[draw me after you]*

O Patris caritas, *[O love of the Father]*
O Nati lenitas! *[O gentleness of the Son]*
Deeply were we stained
per nostra crimina; *[for our sins]*
but thou hast for us gained
caelorum gaudia. *[the joys of heaven]*
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, where, *[where are those joys?]*
if that they be not there?
There are angels singing
nova cantica, *[new songs]*
there the bells are ringing
in Regis curia: *[in the court of the King]*
O that we were there!

Old German, transl. & arr. Robert de Pearsall

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!
 on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice amain!
 on Christmas Day in the morning.

English trad., arr. Simon Preston

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

THIRD LESSON

¶ *read by a representative of Eton College.*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

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.

Isaiah 9.2, 6–7

CAROLS

*Nowell sing we now all and some,
for Rex Pacificus is come.*

[the King of Peace]

In Bethl'em in that fair city,
a child was born of a maiden free,
that shall a lord and princë be,
a solis ortus cardine.

[from the farthest east]

Children were slain full great plenty,
Jesu, for the love of thee;
wherefore their soulës saved be,
hostis Herodis impie.

[O profane enemy Herod]

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

[O Trinity of blessed light]

Now God is comën to worshipën us;
now of Mary is born Jesus;
make we merry amongës us;
exultet celum laudibus.

[let heaven rejoice with praises]

Mediæval, ed. Stephen Cleobury

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *As the organ introduction begins, all stand to sing.*

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires 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,
becradled in the manger.

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

Choir

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.

[with songs in the choir]

[let us bless the Lord]

¶ *All sit.*

FOURTH LESSON

¶ *read by a Fellow.*

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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.

Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

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 Blessed Babe she bare us
in a cold, cold winter's night.

[the second verse is repeated]

Words: 14th century anon., transl. C. Winkworth

Music: Herbert Howells

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 called 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 called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Words: William Blake

Music: John Tavener

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

FIFTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Master over the Choristers.*

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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 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 *trad., arr. Stephen Cleobury*

ANTHEM

Bogoróditse Dyevo, raduisia,
Blagodatnaya Marie, Gospod
stoboyu. Blagoslovena Ty v
zhe nakh i blagosloven plot
chreva tvoyego; yako spasa
rodila yesi dush nashikh.

*Rejoice, O virgin Mary, full of
grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, for thou hast borne the
Saviour of our souls.*

[Sung twice]

Words: The Orthodox Liturgy

Music: Arvo Pärt

Commissioned for the 1990 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

SIXTH LESSON

¶ *read by a representative of the City of Cambridge.*

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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.

Luke 2.1–7

CAROL

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

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under-earth.
We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him, to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him: and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath.
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

Words: Robert Herrick

Music: John Rutter

Commissioned for the 1987 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ANTHEM

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute
hochheilige Paar,
Holder Knabe
im lockigen Haar.
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht.
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut
von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem
göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt
die rettende Stund',
Christ in deiner Geburt.

*Silent night, holy night,
all is dark, just one light:
Mary and Joseph are
watching the child;
boy so tender,
so graceful and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
shepherds first saw the sight
and the angels' Alleluia
brings the tidings near and far:
Christ the Saviour is born.*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
shines from you,
the divinest of kings
as the hour of salvation it brings,
Jesus, Lord, with thy birth.*

Text: J. Mohr, transl. Godela Weiss-Sussex

Music: Franz Gruber, arr. Philip Ledger

SEVENTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Director of Music.*

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Luke 2.8–16

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

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;
Heav'n 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

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *As the organ introduction begins, all stand to sing.*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an 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.’

¶ *All sit.*

EIGHTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Vice-Provost.*

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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.

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

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.

Matthew 2.1–12

CAROL

O mercy divine,
how couldst thou incline,
my God, to become such an infant as mine?

What a wonder of grace,
the Ancient of Days
is found in the likeness of Adam's frail race!

He comes from on high,
who fashioned the sky,
and meekly vouchsafes in a manger to lie.

The angels, she knew,
had worshipped him too,
and still they confess adoration his due.

Their newly born king,
transported they sing,
and heaven and earth with the triumph doth ring.

The wise men adore,
and bring him their store,
the rich are permitted to follow the poor.

To the inn they repair,
to see the young heir;
the inn is a palace, for Jesus is there.

Who now would be great,
and not rather wait
on Jesus their Lord in his humble estate?

Like him would I be,
my master I see
in a stable; a stable shall satisfy me.

Words: C. Wesley

Music: Judith Weir

This carol was commissioned for today's service with the support of parents of a former Chorister. The cello soloist is Guy Johnston, another former Chorister.

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

CAROL

Nowell.

Who is there that singeth so, *Nowell?*

I am here, Sir Christèmas.

Welcome, my Lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less, come near. *Nowell.*

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,

[God protect you, good sirs]

tidings I you bring:

a maid hath borne a child full young,

which causeth you to sing: *Nowell.*

Christ is now born of a pure maid;

in an ox stall he is laid,

wherefore sing we at abrayde: *Nowell.*

Buvez bien, buvez bien

[drink well, throughout the gathering]

par toute la compagnie.

Make good cheer and be right merry,

and sing with us now joyfully: *Nowell.*

Nowell!

Words: anon., c.1500

Music: William Mathias

¶ *All stand.*

NINTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Provost.*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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: Which 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.

John 1.1–14

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

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

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of Angels.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

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

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

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

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

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

¶ *All remain standing.*

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

Dean The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Dean Let us pray.

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

All Amen.

¶ *Please turn the page quietly.*

Dean Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL 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!

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.

¶ *The congregation is asked to be as quiet as possible during the two organ voluntaries as they are being broadcast and recorded.*

¶ *All remain standing in their places for the first organ voluntary.*

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Bach

¶ *All remain standing while the processions leave during the second organ voluntary.*

Pièces de Fantaisie en quatre suites Livre II op. 53: Toccata

Vierne

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

FURTHER MUSIC NOTES

- p.8 Once in royal: words, C. F. Alexander; melody, H. J. Gauntlett, harm. Gauntlett and A. H. Mann; desc. S. Cleobury. Novello.
- p.12 Up good Christen folk: OUP.
- p.15 Adam lay ybounden: Novello.
- p.18 In dulci jubilo: OUP.
- p.19 I saw three ships: Novello.
- p.22 Unto us: 15th C. Latin transl. G. R. Woodward.
Music: Piae Cantiones, arr. D. Willcocks. OUP.
- p.24 A spotless rose: Stainer and Bell.
- p.25 The Lamb: Chester.
- p.27 Joys Seven: OUP.
- p.32 Stille Nacht: OUP.
- p.34 In the bleak midwinter: Stainer and Bell.
- p.36 While shepherds watched: words, N. Tate; music, after C. Tye, desc. S. Cleobury. Novello.
- p.38 O mercy divine: Chester
- p.40 Nowell: OUP.
- p.42 O come all ye faithful: Adeste fideles, transl. F. Oakley. Desc. D. Willcocks.
- p.44 Hark the herald: words, C. Wesley et al. Encore.

CHRISTMAS COMMISSIONS AT KING'S

- 1983 *In Wintertime* Lennox Berkeley
1984 *Fix on one star* Peter Maxwell Davies
1985 *Illuminare Jerusalem* Judith Weir
1986 *Nowell (Holly Dark)* Richard Rodney Bennett
1987 *What sweeter music* John Rutter
1988 *The Birthday of thy King* Peter Sculthorpe
1989 *St Steven was a clerk* Alexander Goehr
1990 *Bogoróditse Dyevo* Arvo Pärt
1991 *The text is of a gathering* John Casken
1992 *Sweet Jesu, King of blisse* Nicholas Maw
1993 *When Christ was born (Christo paremus cantica)* Diana Burrell
1994 *The Angels* Jonathan Harvey
1995 *Seinté Mari moder milde* James MacMillan
1996 *Pilgrim Jesus* Stephen Paulus
1997 *Fayrfax Carol* Thomas Adès
1998 *Winter Solstice Carol* Giles Swayne
1999 *Dormi, Jesu!* John Rutter
1999 *On Christmas Day to my heart* Richard Rodney Bennett
2000 *The Three Kings* Jonathan Dove
2000 *The Shepherd's Carol* Robert Chilcott
2001 *Spring in Winter* John Woolrich
2002 *The angel Gabriel descended* Robin Holloway
2003 *The Gleam* Harrison Birtwistle
2004 *God Would be Born in Thee* Judith Bingham
2005 *Away in a Manger* John Tavener
2006 *Misere' Nobis* Mark-Anthony Turnage
2007 *Advent Responsories/High Word of God* Philip Ledger, David Willcocks
2007 *Now comes the Dawn* Brett Dean
2008 *Mary* Dominic Muldowney
2009 *The Christ Child* Gabriel Jackson
2010 *Christmas Carol* Einojuhani Rautavaara
2011 *Christmas Eve* Tansy Davies
2012 *Ring Out, Wild Bells* Carl Vine
2013 *Hear the Voice of the Bard* Thea Musgrave
2014 *De Virgine Maria* Carl Rütti
2015 *The Flight* Richard Causton
2016 *This Endernight* Michael Berkeley
2017 *Elisha's Carol/Carol Eliseus* Huw Watkins
2018 *O Mercy Divine* Judith Weir

BECOMING A CHORISTER AT KING'S

If you know a boy in school-year 2, 3 or 4 who likes singing and enjoys music, do please consider contacting the Choir Office to learn more about becoming a chorister here.

choir@kings.cam.ac.uk or 01223 331224.

King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST

www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir

Dean

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

Director of Music

Dr Stephen Cleobury

Chaplain

The Revd Andrew Hammond

Organ Scholars

Henry Websdale

Donal McCann

Dean's Verger

Ian Griffiths

Deputy Dean's Verger

Malwina Sołtys

After tomorrow morning's service, the Chapel will be closed to visitors until Wednesday 2nd January 2019, apart from special tours which may be booked through the College website. Choral services will resume on Wednesday 16th January 2019.