

A Festival of Nine Lessons and
Carols in King's College Chapel
upon Christmas Eve 1918



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ORDER OF SERVICE

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

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

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

INVITATORY CAROL.

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

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN.

Once in Royal David's City. 19th Century

¶ The congregation should join in for the fifth and sixth verses.

- 1 ONCE in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a Mother laid her Baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly Maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

- 4 For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.
- 5 And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.
- 6 Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

¶ Then all standing shall be said this Bidding Prayer:

THE BIDDING PRAYER.

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

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

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

And particularly at this time let us remember before Him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before Him them who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN.

A Great and Mighty Wonder.

*M. Praetorius
17th Century*

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. *Then while the people still stand, the Dean shall say the first Benediction.*

With perpetual benediction may the Father Everlasting bless us.
And the people shall answer: Amen.

FIRST LESSON GEN. III. 8-15

God announceth in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

READER: A CHORISTER.

CAROL.

A Virgin most Pure.

*Old English
15th Century*

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

*Aye and therefore be merry, set sorrows aside;
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this tide.*

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

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

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

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

SECOND LESSON GEN. XXII. 15-18

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

READER: A CHAPEL CLERK.

CAROL.

Blessed be that Maid Marie.

*Old English
16th Century*

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

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

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

Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the Angel throng,
'Peace on earth,' Alléluya.
In excelsis gloria.

Fare three Kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlem the Babe they see,
Stelle ducti lumine.

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

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

THIRD LESSON ISAAH IX. 2, 6, 7

Christ's birth and kingdom is foretold by Esaias.

READER: AN UNDERGRADUATE MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE.

CAROL. As up the Wood I took my Way.

20th Century
Martin Shaw

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

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

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

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

For golden Gabriel took my hand,
And brought me to the shed,
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary;
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
And rocked Lord Jesus' bed.
Then hie! good shepherds and masters mine,
We'll cease to moil and grieve;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
The Lord of all,
The Lord of all;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
And this is Christmas Eve!

The Almighty Lord bless us with His grace. *Amen.*

FOURTH LESSON MICAH V. 2, 3, 4

The prophet Micah foreseeth the glory of little Bethlehem.

READER: A FELLOW.

CAROL. ♪ To be sung by the congregation.

Este's Psalter 1592
Words, 17th Century

While Shepherds watched.

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.
'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'
Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:
'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. *Amen.*

FIFTH LESSON ST LUKE I. 26-33 and 38

The Angel Gabriel visiteth the Blessed Virgin Mary.

READER: THE VICE-PROVOST.

CAROL.

Unto us is born a Son.

*Words & Melody
14th Century*

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.
Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory!
O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

By the words of GOD's Gospel be our sins blotted out. *Amen.*

SIXTH LESSON. ¶ *The Congregation should stand for this Lesson.*

ST JOHN I. 1-14.

The Word is made Flesh.

READER: A FREE CHURCH MINISTER.

CAROL.

¶ *To be sung by the Congregation.*

☉ Come, all ye Faithful.

18th Century

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:

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

SEVENTH LESSON ST LUKE II. 8-16

The Shepherds go unto the Manger.

READER: THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN.

CAROLS.

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

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

Childing of a Maiden Bright. *Melody 11th Century
Words 14th Century*

CHILDING of a maiden bright
Life to-day hath brought to light;
And hath put that prince of might
With his flock of fiends to flight:

Christus natus hodie.

Whoso aught hath done amiss,
An it rue him sore for this,
Mary's Babe will shrive i-wis,
Gentle as a lamb He is:

Miserere, Domine.

He at Bethlehem was born,
Salem gave Him crown of thorn,
Life of want and death of scorn—
All for love of man forlorn.

Ergo benedicite.

On this Infant may we call,
Born for man in oxen-stall:
He vouchsafe us bliss withal
In His everlasting hall.

Cum Maria Virgine.

The Creator of all things give us His blessing now and for
evermore. *Amen.*

EIGHTH LESSON ST MATTHEW I. 1-11

The Wise Men are led by the Star to Jesus.

READER: THE PROVOST OF ETON.

CAROL.

In Dulce Jubilo.

Melody 14th Century

IN *dulci júbilo*

Let us our homage shew
Our heart's joy reclineth

In praesepio

And like a bright star shineth

Alpha es et O.

Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule

My heart is sore for Thee

I beseech Thee

O puer optime

My prayer let it reach Thee

O princeps glorie

Trahe me post te.

O Patris Charitas

O nati lenitas

Deep were we stained

Per nostra crimina

But Thou hast for us gained

Celorum gaudia

O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia

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!

Unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels
bring us all. *Amen.*

NINTH LESSON GALATIANS IV. 4-7

God maketh us sons through Christ.

READER: THE PROVOST.

CAROL. **C.** *The Congregation should sing the last verse by them-
selves, and the refrain throughout.*

The First Nowell.

Old English

THE first Nowell that the Angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
In a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a Star,
Shining in the East, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same Star
There came three wise men from countries far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wheresoever it went:

This Star drew nigh to the North-West,
And at Bethlehem Jury she took up her rest;
And there she did both stop and stay
Right over the house where the King did lay:

Then entered in these wise men three,
Most reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense:

Now let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Which hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And by his blood mankind hath bought.

C. *During the last verse, the Choir proceeds to the Altar, and there sings*

Charles Wood

Words—the Metrical

Version of Sternhold

& Hopkins

16th Century

THE MAGNIFICAT.

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

For now behold all nations
and generations all
from this time forth for evermore
shall me right blessed call.
Because He hath me magnified
Which is the Lord of might;
which Name he ever sanctified,
and praised day and night.

For with His mercy and His grace
all men He doth inflame
throughout all generations
to such as fear His Name.
He shewed strength with His great arm
and made the proud to start,
with all imaginations
that they bear in their heart.

He hath put down the mighty ones
from their supernal seat;
and did exalt the meek in heart,
as He hath thought it meet.
The hungry He replenisheth
with all things that were good
and through His power he made the rich
ofttimes to want for food.

And calling to remembrance
His mercy every deal,
hath holpen up insistently
His servant Israel;
according to His promise made
to Abraham before,
and to his seed successively,
to stand for evermore.

All laud and praise be to Thee, Lord
O that of might art most,
To God the Father, and the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
as it in the beginning was
for ever heretofore
and is now at the present time,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

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

THE BLESSING.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN. *C.* To be sung by all.

HARK! the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Mendelssohn 1809-47
Words by C. Wesley
(1743). G. Whitefield
(1753)

*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.*