

# KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



## A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve 2020 at 3 pm

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean after experience as an army chaplain; this experience convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that there was scope for something a little more imaginative.

The 1918 service was adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson for use at 10 pm on Christmas Eve in 1880, in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his Cathedral in Truro.

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.' Milner-White 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 been 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 had been removed from the Chapel – some say you could hear the tar-paper flapping in the background over the radio.

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 on Radio Four in the United Kingdom. A recording of the service is broadcast on Christmas Day on Radio Three. It was first transmitted to the United States in the 1970s on Minnesota Public Radio and is now relayed by hundreds of radio stations there.

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, some are busy with their own preparations for Christmas; others make time to sit down, either alone or with friends, and join in with the congregational carols, perhaps having previously printed out this order of service.

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. '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. 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'. When they hear these words, following the extraordinary events of this year, many today might be thinking of a loved one who has died recently.

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

## HYMN

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.

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.

*Words: C. F. Alexander*

*Music: H. J. Gauntlett, harm.: A. H. Mann, desc.: S. Cleobury*

## 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 health over all the earth; for unity and goodwill 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 and the hungry, the abused, the exploited and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved; the elderly 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.**

## 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  
Abeen heavene queen.  
Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
*'Deo gracias!'*

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> Century (Sloane MS, modernized)*

*Music: B. Ord (1897-1961)*



## 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.

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

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.

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.

And at that season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear;  
he here did live and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Words & Music: Herefordshire Carol*

*arr.: R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) & C. Robinson (1936-)*

## 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*

## CAROL

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

*Words: P. Gerhardt (1607-1676), trans.: J. Troutbeck (1832-1899)*

*Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## CAROL

A tender shoot has started  
up from a root of grace,  
as ancient seers imparted  
from Jesse's holy race;  
It blooms without a blight,  
blooms in the cold bleak winter  
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,  
from Jesse's root should spring;  
the Virgin Mary brought us  
the branch of which we sing:  
our God of endless might  
gave her this child to save us,  
thus turning darkness into light.

*Words & Music: O. Goldschmidt (1829-1907), trans.: W. Bartholomew (1793-1867)*

### THIRD LESSON

¶ *read by the Chaplain.*

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*

## 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, Heav'n 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: C. Rossetti (1830-94)*

*Music: H. Darke (1888-1976)*



## HYMN

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha, from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun.  
*Evermore and evermore.*

He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Whereso'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring.  
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering.  
*Evermore and evermore.*

*Words: Prudentius (c.348-413), trans.: R. F. Davis (1866-1937)*

*Music: Melody from Piae Cantiones (1582), arr.: D. Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## 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*

## CAROL

The holly and the ivy  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown,  
*O the rising of the sun,*  
*And the running of the deer,*  
*The playing of the merry organ,*  
*Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom  
As white as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet saviour:  
*O the rising of the sun,*  
*And the running of the deer,*  
*The playing of the merry organ,*  
*Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good:  
*O the rising of the sun,*  
*And the running of the deer,*  
*The playing of the merry organ,*  
*Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn:  
*O the rising of the sun,  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.  
*O the rising of the sun,  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
*O the rising of the sun,  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

*Words: English Traditional*

*Music: French Traditional Carol, arr.: W. Lutoslawski (1913-1994)*

## CAROL

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation, and Saviour of all,  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

*Words: A. Carter (1939-)*

*Music: French Traditional, arr.: A. Carter*

## 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.

*Luke 1.26–35, 38*

## CAROL

*In dulci jubilo* [In quiet joy]

Let us our homage show

Our heart's joy reclineth

*In praesepe* [in a manger]

And like a bright star shineth

*Matris in gremio!* [in the mother's lap]

*Alpha es et O!* [Thou art Alpha & Omega]

*O Jesu parvule* [O tiny Jesus]

I yearn for Thee alway;

Listen to my ditty,

*O puer optime!* [O best of boys]

Have pity on me, pity

*O princeps gloriae!* [Prince of glory]

*Trahe me post te!* [draw me unto thee]

*O patris caritas,* [O father's caring]

*O nati lenitas,* [O newborn's mildness]

Deeply were we stained

*Per nostra crimina* [by our crimes]

But Thou, hast for us gainèd

*Coelorum gaudia.* [heavenly joy]

O that we were there!



*Ubi sunt gaudia* [where be joys]

If that they be not there?

There are angels singing

*Nova cantica:* [new songs]

There the bells are ringing

*In Regis curia.* [at the king's court]

O that we were there!

*Words: Translated from the German source of 1570 by R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)*

*Music: Old German melody set by R. L. Pearsall*

## CAROL

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*

'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.  
Most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'to me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'most highly favoured lady', *Gloria!*

*Words: Basque Traditional*

*Music: P. Moore (1943-)*

## SIXTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Mayor 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

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Thy grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:-  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

*Words: English Traditional*

*Music: arr.: R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

## CAROL

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Words: 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

*Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), arr.: D. Hill (1957-)*

## 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*

## HYMN

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 on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.’

*Words: N. Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: from Este's Psalter (1592), v.6 arr.: N. J. Marston (1958-)*



## CAROL

O sleep thou heav'n born treasure, thou,  
Sleep sound, thou dearest child;  
While angel wings shall fan thy brow  
With breezes soft and mild.

We shepherds poor are here to sing  
A simple lullay to our King.

*Lullaby, lullaby,  
Sleep, sleep softly lullaby.*

See, Mary has with mother's love  
A bed for thee outspread,  
While Joseph stoops  
And watches at thy head,  
The lambkins in the stall so nigh  
That thou may'st sleep, have hush'd their cry.

*Lullaby, lullaby,  
Sleep, sleep softly lullaby.*

And when thou'rt big and art a man  
Full woe's in store for thee;  
For cruel men thy death will plan,  
And hang thee on a tree.

So sleep, my baby, whilst thou may,  
'Twill give thee rest against that day.

*Lullaby, lullaby,  
Sleep, sleep softly lullaby.*

*Words: English Traditional, trans.: A. Foxton Ferguson (1866-1920)*

*Music: K. Leuner, arr.: C. Macpherson (1870-1927)*

## 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.

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

As I sat on a sunny bank, a sunny bank, a sunny bank,  
As I sat on a sunny bank  
*On Christmas Day in the morning,*

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

And who do you think was in them then  
But Joseph and his fair lady!  
*On Christmas Day in the morning.*

O he did whistle and she did sing  
*On Christmas Day in the morning.*

And all the bells on earth did ring,  
*On Christmas Day in the morning.*

And all the angels in heaven did sing  
*On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Words & Music: English Traditional*

*arr.: E. Poston (1905-1987), D. S. Hyde (1980-)*

## 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*

## HYMN

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,*

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps.

*O come, let us adore him,*

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-Child  
bring our hearts' oblations.

*O come, let us adore him,*

Child, for us sinners,  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
*O come, let us adore him,*

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,*

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,*

*Words & Music: J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786), trans.: F. Oakley, W. T. Brooke et al;  
v.6. arr.: C. Robinson (1936-); v.7. arr.: D. Hill (1957-)*

## 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.**

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.**



## CAROL

Still, still, still,  
the child is sleeping still!  
As Mary holds him to her breast  
singing gently, bringing rest,  
Still, still, still, the child is sleeping still!

Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
My little baby sleep!  
The angels sing and tell the story  
of the child who comes in glory.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
My little baby sleep!

Joy, joy, joy,  
Our hearts are filled with joy!  
The Lord has come from heaven above us  
to this world to guide and love us.  
Joy, joy, joy,  
Our hearts are filled with joy!

*Words & Music: German Traditional, arr. & trans.: B. Chilcott (1955-)*

## HYMN

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!  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing:  
Glory to the new-born King!*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings;  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing:  
Glory to the new-born King!*

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788) et al*

*Music: F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt.: by W. H. Cummings (1831-1915)*

*v.3 arr.: P. Ledger (1937-2012)*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

*J.S Bach (1685-1750)*

Improvisation on 'Adeste, Fideles'

*F. Pott (1957-)*

Dean

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

Director of Music

Daniel Hyde

Chaplain

The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

Organist

Matthew Martin

Dean's Verger

Ian Griffiths

*Front cover illustration: a page from an illuminated manuscript in the College collection.*

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