

# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

## December 26, 2021

### 10:30 am

# *Welcome to a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

On any Sunday, it can be an awe-inspiring realization that one is worshipping in company with multitudes the world over, many with similar liturgy, prayers and scripture. On *this* morning, St. Andrew's joins in a special liturgy that has become a cherished observance at Christmas. It has been broadcast yearly on Christmas Eve by the BBC since 1931 to a worldwide audience from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. It has been embraced by churches of many denominations and, as attested to by decades of letters to the BBC, a huge diversity of faith and culture.

The first *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* was the idea of Bishop E. W. Benson (later Archbishop of Canterbury) and was first held in 1880 in a wooden shed which then served as Truro Cathedral. Settlers from here in remote Cornwall had settled southwest Wisconsin only decades earlier. In 1918 an army chaplain , Eric Milner-White, returned from the battlefields where he had devised new services for his soldiers for special occasions in the church year. As Dean of King's College, he adapted Benson's service. In his words: "*The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God, from the Creation to the Incarnation, through the windows and words of the Bible.*"

What accounts for the special place this service holds for so many? Perhaps it is simply the chance to rest in and reflect on this story. The alternating of scripture and music lets mind and heart each inform the other. The words are so familiar that we need to let them go deeper. Music takes us there.

## Prelude

## Chorale prelude on *In dulci jubilo*

## Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

### Chorale prelude on *Es ist ein Ros*

arranged by Thomas Keesecker

**Entrance Carol:** Once in Royal David's City (Irby) hymnal, number 102  
verse 1, choir; verses 2, 4 and 6, all; sing unison on verse 6; Omit verses 3 and 5

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, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

4. For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew;  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:  
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set a God's right hand on high.

### Bidding Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,**  
**Who art in heaven,**  
**Hallowed be thy Name,**  
**Thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**And the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### First Lesson – Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

*Read by Stephanie Elkins*

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Carol – From heaven above to earth I come (Vom Himmel hoch) *hymnal, number 80; vs. 1, 3 and 4*

1 From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

2 to you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
he will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free.

4 The blessing which the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand,  
that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.

**Second Lesson – Genesis 22: 15-18**

*Read by David Johnson*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol: Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum mysterium) *hymnal, number 82*

1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

2 O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

3 Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

4 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

**Third Lesson - Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

*Read by Donna McDowell*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol: Hark! The herald angels sing (Mendelssohn) *hymnal, number 87*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

### **Refrain:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!**

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel! **(Refrain)**

3. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings, Light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! **(Refrain)**

## **Fourth Lesson - Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9**

*Read by Guy Stalnaker*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (Es ist ein Ros) hymnal, number 81  
vs. 1 and 2

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

**Fifth Lesson** - Luke 1: 26-35, 38

*Read by Karen Evans Romaine*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol: The snow lay on the ground (Venite adoremus)      *hymnal, number 110*

1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,  
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

**Refrain:**

Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

2. 'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,  
that brought into this world the God made man.  
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. (**Refrain**)

3. Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;  
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;  
the angels hovered round, and sang this song,  
Venite adoremus Dominum. (**Refrain**)

4. And thus that manger poor became a throne;  
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.  
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;  
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (**Refrain**)

**Sixth Lesson** - Luke 2: 1; 3-7

*Read by John Mullen*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL – In the bleak midwinter (Cranham)

*hymnal, number 112*

1. In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
4. 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.

**Seventh Lesson** - Luke 2: 8-16

*Read by David Polet*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester Old)  
*hymnal, number 94*

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high and on earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to me begin and never cease."

**Eighth Lesson - Matthew 2: 1-12**

*Read by Joe Hanzlik*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol: The first Nowell (English Carol)

*hymnal, number 109m vs 3-6*

3. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

**Refrain:**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. **(Refrain)**

5. Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **(Refrain)**

6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made Heaven and earth of nought, and with His blood our life hath bought. **(Refrain)**

**Ninth Lesson - John 1: 1-14**

Read by Karen Evans Romaine

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn: Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)

*hymnal, number 324*

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Celebrations and Invitations

### Prayer and Blessing

Presider: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who makes 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 comes to be our judge: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
world without end. **Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

**Hymn:** O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)

*hymnal, number 83*

1 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;

**Refrain:**

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

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of the Father; **[Refrain]**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; **[Refrain]**

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **[Refrain]**

*vs. 1, 2, 3 and 6*

**Dismissal**

**Postlude:** Voluntary on *In dulci jubilo*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Participating in the leadership of this service:

The Rev. Andy Jones, Rector

Mr. Ken Stancer, Music Director and Organist

The St. Andrew's Chancel Choir

*Readers of the Lessons*

*Stephanie Elkins, David Johnson, Donna McDowell, Guy Stalnaker, Karen Evans Romaine, John Mullen, David Polet, Joe Hanzlik,*

*Greeter/Usher-Steve Chadderdon*

*Tech Acolyte-Jeff Whitman*

*Acolyte-Susan Wood*

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