



THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE of Nine Lessons and Carols was drawn up by Bishop E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, on Christmas Eve 1880. A.C. Benson recalled: ‘My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.’ The suggestion had come from G.H.S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, as we know it today, was adapted by The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White for use at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. In his words, ‘The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘through the windows and words of the Bible’. Local interests appear 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 surely must have recalled those killed in the Great War – ‘all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light’. The center of the service is still found by those who ‘go in heart and mind’ and who consent to follow where the story leads.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Pre-Service Music

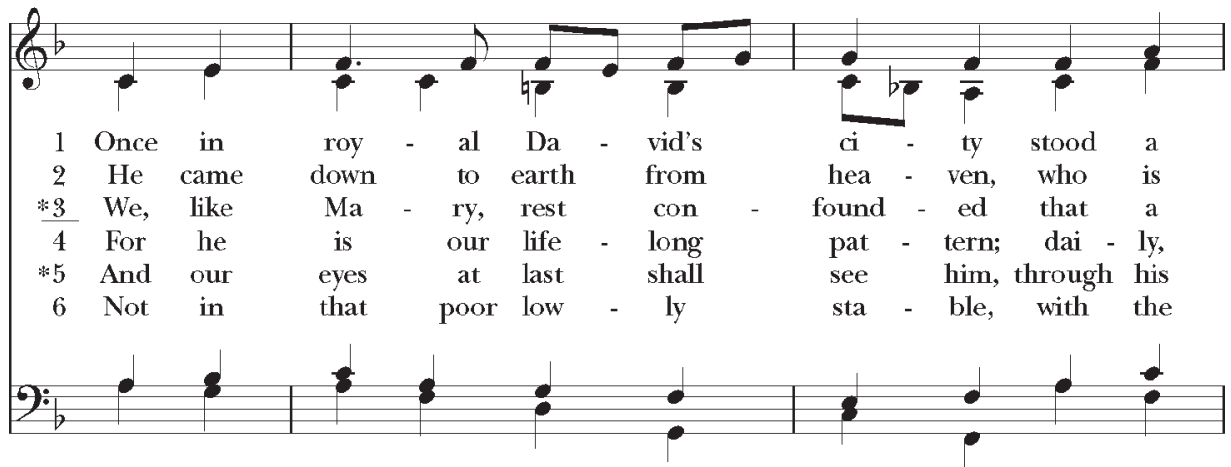
Nicholas Bideler, *organist*

Prelude in D Major	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Prelude on <i>The holly and the ivy</i>	Herbert Sumsion (1928-1967)
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude on <i>Greensleeves</i>	Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
Moderato, <i>Symphonie Gothique</i>	Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

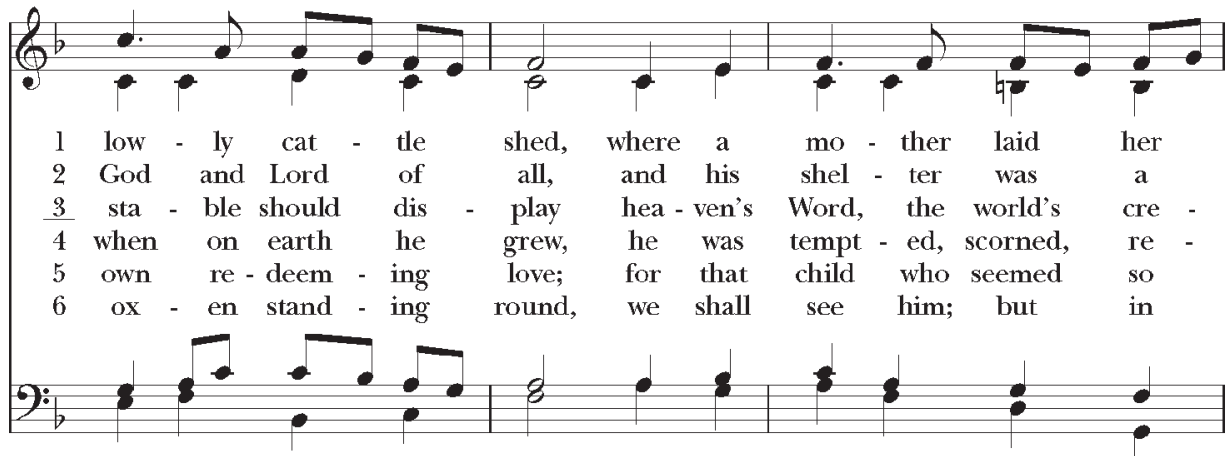
☞ *Throughout the service, the Congregation is seated for the reading of Scripture and the singing of Carols and stands for the singing of Hymns and for Prayers*

☞ *At the sound of the chime, all stand for the singing of the opening Hymn*

¶ Verses 1 is sung by the Choir alone; all join in singing on verse 2



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) and James McCrady (b. 1938)
 Music: IRBY; John Gauntlett (1805-1876)
 Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

‡ *At the conclusion of the Hymn, all remain standing as the Officiant says*

The Bidding Prayer

BELOVED IN CHRIST, in this season of Christmas, let it be 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, to see 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 look forward in hope to the time when all creation is renewed and all people brought into God's Kingdom of peace and righteousness.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country, and within this city.

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 and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and 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 God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one 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:

‡ *Officiant and People*

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. Amen.

‡ *Officiant*

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. ‡ *People* Amen.

‡ *All are then seated*

Invitatory Carol

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Eearth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

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 Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
Worship night and day, A breast full of milk,
And a manger-full 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 (1830-1894)

Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)



GOD ANNOUNCES IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN THAT THE SEED
OF WOMAN SHALL BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD

Reader: A Member of the Youth Group

NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE SUBTILE than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 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.

Carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

*And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the Holly!*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

*Words: 19th cent. Cornish
Music: Stephen Caracciolo (2012)*



THE SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22:15-18

**GOD PROMISES TO FAITHFUL ABRAHAM THAT IN HIS SEED SHALL ALL
THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED**

Reader: Director of Stewardship and Giving

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.

Carol

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

Words: J. Montgomery

Music: French trad., arr. R. Jacques



THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS FORESHOWN

Reader: A Member of the Finance Committee

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: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 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's 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.

Carol

What is this lovely fragrance wafting
 Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?
 Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty
 Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
 What is this lovely fragrance wafting
 Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
 Seek the Saviour, born today.
 Low at His feet we lay our treasure,
 Heart's adoration, love for aye.
 Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
 Seek the Saviour, born today.

What is this light so fair, so tender
 Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
 Never the Morning Star so radiant
 Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
 What is this light so fair, so tender
 Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Words: Traditional English
Music: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

♩ *All stand and join in singing the Hymn*

1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
 4 For lo! the days are haste-ning on, by pro-phets seen of old,

from an - gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all - gra - cious King.”
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
 and war - ring hu - man-kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel-sounds the bless - ed an-gels sing.
 O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an-gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876)
 Music: NOEL; Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

♩ *All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



THE FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Reader: A Member of the Vestry

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, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Carol

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promis'd 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.

Words: 14th-century

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

♩ *All stand and join in singing the Hymn*

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Traditional Basque

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE; Traditional Basque Carol

♩ *All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SALUTES HER COUSIN ELISABETH

Reader: The Parish Treasurer

AND MARY AROSE IN THOSE DAYS, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.” And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Carol

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;
King of all kings to her son sheches.

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

He came all so still to his mother’s bower,
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where his mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth.

Mother and maiden was never done but she:
Well may such a lady Godes mother be.

Words: 15th-century English
Music: Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)



SAINT LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Reader: The Junior Warden

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. 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 Judaea, 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.

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 so sad
since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sins he set us free.
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing.
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
which makes the Angels sing this night.
Glory to God and peace to men.
Now and forevermore, Amen.

Words: Traditional English
Music: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

♩ *All stand and join in singing the Hymn*



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Traditional English
Music: David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Descant: Colin Mawby (1936-2019)

♩ *All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

Reader: Assistant Rector

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.

Carol

We stood on the hills, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows
That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
The air so still,
Silence more lovely than music
Folded the hill.

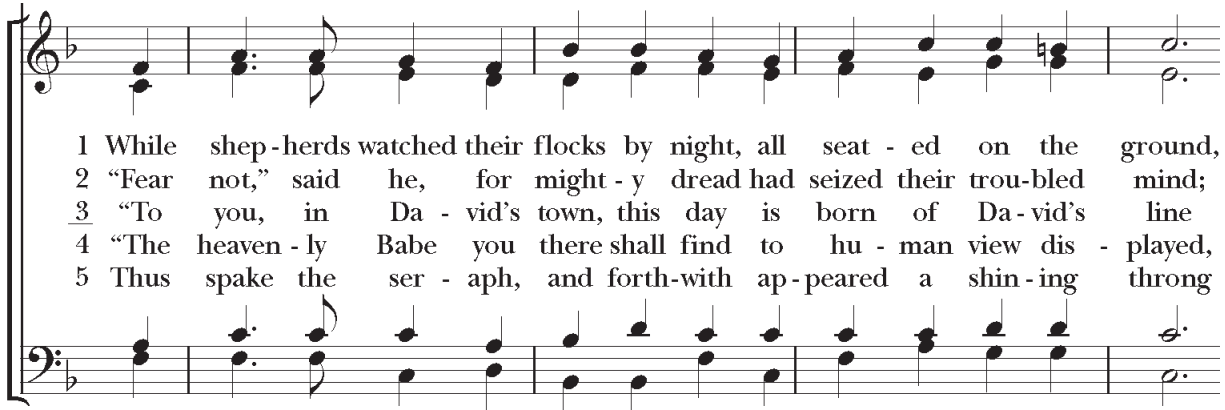
There was a star, Lady,
Shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was
And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,
It seemed to us then
Telling of God being born
In the world of men.

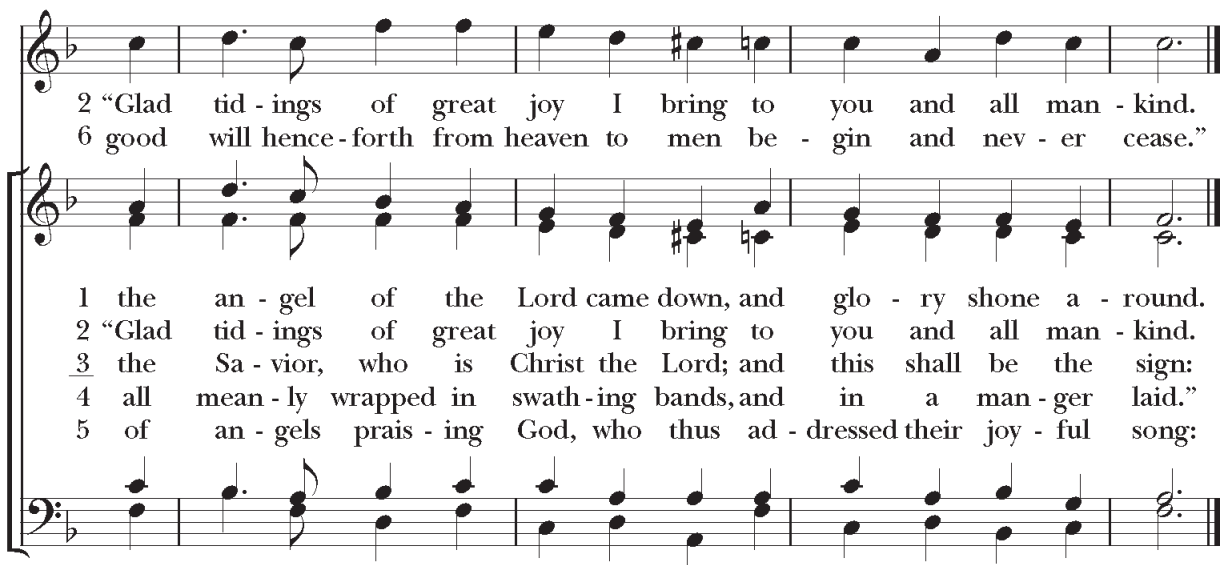
And so we have come, Lady,
Our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves,
We give to your son.

Words: Clive Sansom (1910-1981)
Music: Bob Chilcott (b.1956)

¶ All stand and join in singing the Hymn



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,
2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;
3 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of Da-vid's line
4 "The heaven-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,
5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng



2 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be-gin and nev-er cease."
1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.
2 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
3 the Sa-rior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid."
5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

6 "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: Nahum Tate (1625-1715)

Music: Winchester Old (1592) from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*

Descant: Alan Gray (1855-1935)

¶ All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn



THE EIGHTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-11

THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS

Reader: The Senior Warden

NOW WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM of Judaea 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 Judaea: 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.

Carol

Lully, lulla, By, by. lully, lullay.

O sisters too how may we do
 for to preserve this day?
 This poor youngling for whom we sing
 By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
 charged he hath this day.
 His men of might in his own sight
 All young children to slay.

That woe is me,
 poor Child for Thee,
 and ever morn and day.
 For Thy parting neither say nor sing,

*Words: Traditional Carol
 Music: Philip Stopford (2011)*



¶ All stand for the reading of the Ninth Lesson

THE NINTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

SAINT JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Reader: The Rector

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.

¶ All remain standing and join in singing the Hymn

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 Jes - us, to thee be glo - ry given;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
 Music: *Adeste fideles*; attr. John Francis Wade
 Descant: David Willcocks

¶ All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn

The Rector's Greeting

Carol

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum, jacentem in præsepio.
Beata Virgo Maria cujus
viscera meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia.

*O great mystery and
wondrous sacrament, that
animals should see the new
born Lord lying in a manger.
Blessed is the Virgin whose
womb was worthy to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia*

*Words: Responsory at Matins of Christmas Day
Music: Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)*



¶ All stand for the Responsory, Prayer, and Blessing

Vesper Responsory

Incarnatus est

- ∇. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us;
℞. And we beheld his glory.
- ∇. The glory of the Lord has been revealed,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God;
℞. And we beheld his glory.
- ∇. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
℞. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.

A Collect for Christmas

- ℣. Behold, the dwelling of God is with men;
℟. He will dwell with us and we shall be his people.

☞ *Officiant*

TO THEE, O CHRIST, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly praises and humble thanks. For love of our human race, thou didst most wonderfully choose to be made man, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by; that we might be regenerate and born again by thy life-giving Spirit, and restored in the image of God, to whom, one blessed and undivided Trinity, be all honor, might, majesty, and glory, both now and for ever. ☞ *People* Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

MAY HE WHO BY HIS INCARNATION gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward grace and goodwill; And the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and abide with you for ever. ☞ *People* Amen.

Hymn ☞ *The Hymn is found overleaf*

☞ *At the conclusion of the Hymn, all remain standing as the Choir and Ministers depart*

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia super *In dulci jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

The Church of St. Michael & St. George is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who donate as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your donation in the collection plate or use the QR code below to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish and our mission, in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
 Music: Mendelssohn; Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Participants in the Service

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Andrew John Archie

READERS

Agnes Smith	First Lesson
Alexis Posnanski	Second Lesson
Kathy Sherby	Third Lesson
Ruth Ezell	Fourth Lesson
David Ott	Fifth Lesson
Betsy Panke	Sixth Lesson
The Rev. Thomas Albinson	Seventh Lesson
Joseph Sheehan	Eighth Lesson
The Rev. Andrew Archie	Ninth Lesson



THE CHOIR OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

Nicholas Bideler, *Director of Music*

David Sinden, *Guest Organist*

SOPRANO

Anna Albinson
Jessie Dunnivant
Romaine Filges
Darcie Johnson
Sarah Sheldon
Bethanie Ward

ALTO

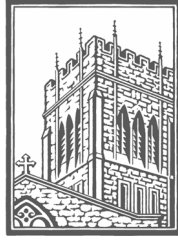
Ann Babington
Kathleen Beyers
Shirley Bynum-Smith
Dianne Duncan
Katherine Gandlmayr
Christina Kruger
Susan Taylor

TENOR

Andrew Martin
John McDonald
Freddie Rice
Brandon Tan

BASS

Dayne Newberry
Daniel Seymour
Sterling Webster



THE CHURCH

OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

6345 Wydown Boulevard

P.O. Box 11887

St. Louis, MO 63105

314.721.1502

www.csmg.org

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Saturday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

- 4:00 PM Nativity Pageant and The Holy Eucharist I*
- 6:30 PM Choral Eucharist I*
- 10:30 PM Carol Service of Preparation and Praise*
- 11:00 PM Solemn Midnight Eucharist of the Incarnation I* — *Incense will be used*

Sunday, December 25 — Christmas Day

- 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist I*

Sunday, January 1 — The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- 8:00 AM The Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist *
- 5:00 PM Evensong *

** The Choir will sing at these liturgies*

Full details of all liturgical offerings are available at www.csmg.org



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2022-2023 SEASON

Sundays at 5:00 PM

- January 1 Solemn Evensong*
- February 5 Evensong
- March 5 Evensong
*Sung by the CSMSG Choir at the Abbey of St. Mary
and St. Louis*
- April 2 Passion Vespers
- May 7 Eastertide Vespers
*Sung by the monks of the Abbey of St. Mary
and St. Louis*
- June 4 Solemn Evensong*

** Incense will be used*

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 18, 2022

5:00 PM

“The Annunciation”

(circa 1395 –1455)

Fra Angelica

Museo del Prado

Wikimedia Commons

The Rev. Andrew John Archie *Rector*

The Rev. Peter James Speropulos *Assistant Rector*

The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson *Assistant Rector*

The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem *Priest Associate*

Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler *Director of Music*

Kathleen Guilfooy Beyers *Assistant Director of Music*



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