



*A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

December 17, 2023 5:00 PM

**T**he 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.



**T**he 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.

*On the cover: “The Nativity” (The Adoration of Christ)  
Zanobi Strozzi (1417-1455)  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
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THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 17, 2023 5:00 PM

### Pre-Service Music

Mr. S. William Aitken, *Interim Organist and Choral Director*

Noel Grand Jeu et Duo Louis Claude Daquin  
(1694-1772)

In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 751) Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Noel sur les Flutes Louis Claude Daquin

Prelude and Fugue in D Major Diderik Buxtehude  
(1637-1707)

Desseins Eternals Olivier Messiaen  
*La Nativite du Seigneur* (1908-1992)

*God, in his love, has predestined us to be his adopted children, through Jesus Christ,  
at the praise of the glory of his grace.*

Magnificat VI Marcel Dupre  
*Finale* (1886-1970)

*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*

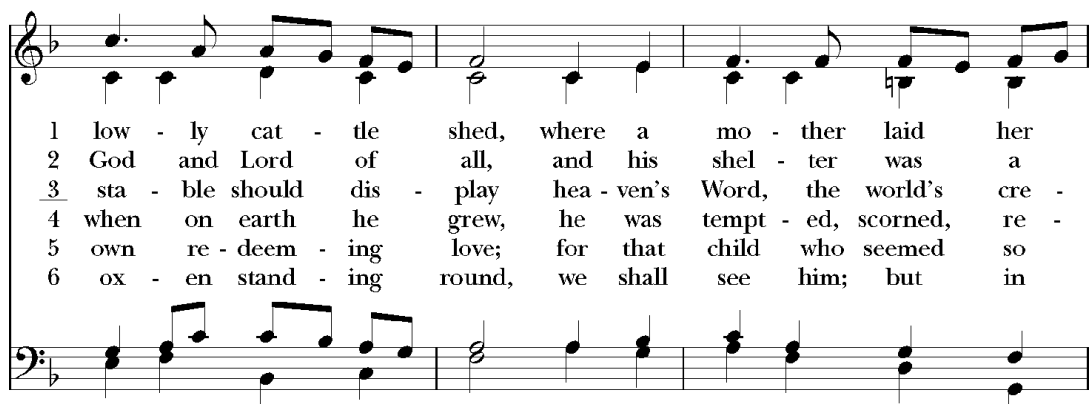
*At the sound of the chime, all stand for the singing of the opening Hymn*

# Hymn at the Procession

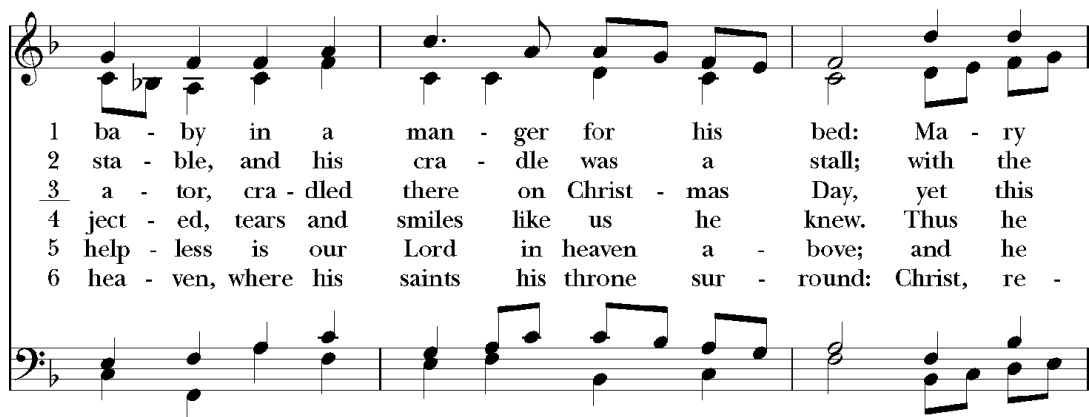
*Verse 1 is sung by the Choir alone; all join in singing on verse 2*



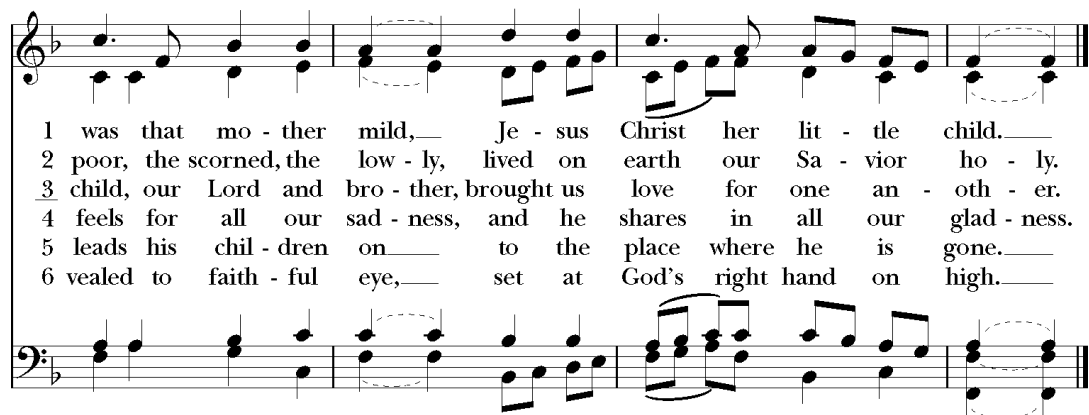
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with 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) & James McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: John Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## The Bidding Prayer

*The Officiant says*

**B**eloved 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

### *All This Time*

All this time this song is best:  
‘Verbum caro factum est.’  
This night there is a child yborn  
That sprang out of Jesse’s thorn;  
We must sing and say therefore,  
All this time...

Jesus is the childe’s name,  
And Mary mild is his dame;  
All our sorrow shall turn to game:

All this time...

It fell upon high midnight:  
The starres shone both fair and bright;  
The angels sang with all their might,

All this time...

Now kneel we down on our knee,  
And pray we to the Trinity  
Our help, our succour for to be;

All this time...

*Words:* 16th Century

*Music:* William Walton (1902-1983)





## The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

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

*Reader: A Member of the Youth Group*

**N**ow the serpent was more subtle 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

### *Adam Lay Ybounden*

Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady  
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Deo gracias!

*Words:* 15th Century

*Music:* Boris Ord (1897-1961)





## 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

**A**nd 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

*Zion at Thy Shining Gates*

Zion at thy shining gates  
Lo, the King of Glory waits,  
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,  
Strew thy palms before his feet.

Christ for thee their triple light,  
Faith and hope and love unite;  
This the beacon we display  
To proclaim thine advent day.

Come and give us peace within,  
Loose us from the bands of sin,  
Take away the galling weight  
Laid on us by Satan's hate.

Give us grace thy yoke to wear,  
Give us strength thy cross to bear,  
Make us thine in deed and word,  
Thine in heart and life, O Lord.

So when thou shalt come again,  
Judge of angels and of men,  
We with all thy saints shall sing,  
Alleluias to our King.

*Words:* B. H. Kennedy

*Music:* George Guest (1924-2002)



## The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The peace foretells the coming of the Saviour*

*Reader:* The Master of the St. Paul's Guild

**T**he 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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Carol

*Angelus ad Virginem (sung in Latin)*

The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin, calming the Virgin's fear, said:  
'Hail, Mary, Queen of Virgins! You shall conceive the Lord of Heaven and Earth  
And give birth, remaining a virgin to the Salvation of mankind;  
You, made the Gateway of Heaven, the cure for sin.'

'How shall I conceive, since I know not a man?  
How shall I break what I have resolutely vowed?'  
'The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this.  
Fear not, but rejoice, confident thy chastity will remain pure in you by the power of God.'

At this, the noble Virgin, replying said to him:  
'I am the humble servant of almighty God.  
To you, heavenly messenger, who know so great a secret,  
I give my assent and desire to see done what I hear, and am ready to obey God's will.'

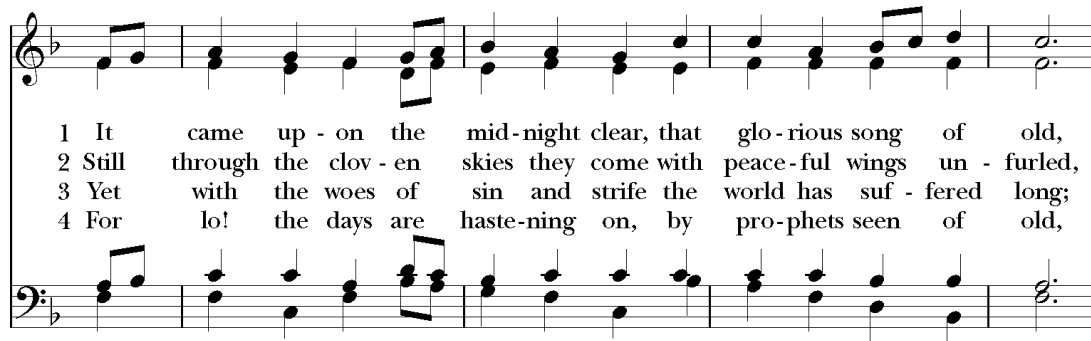
O Mother of the Lord, who restored peace  
To angels and men when you gave birth to Christ,  
Beg of your Son that he may show himself favorable to us  
And wipe away our sins, offering help to enjoy the blessed life after this exile.

*Words:* 13th Century English

*Music:* arr. Andrew Carter (b.1939)

*All stand and join in singing the following Hymn*

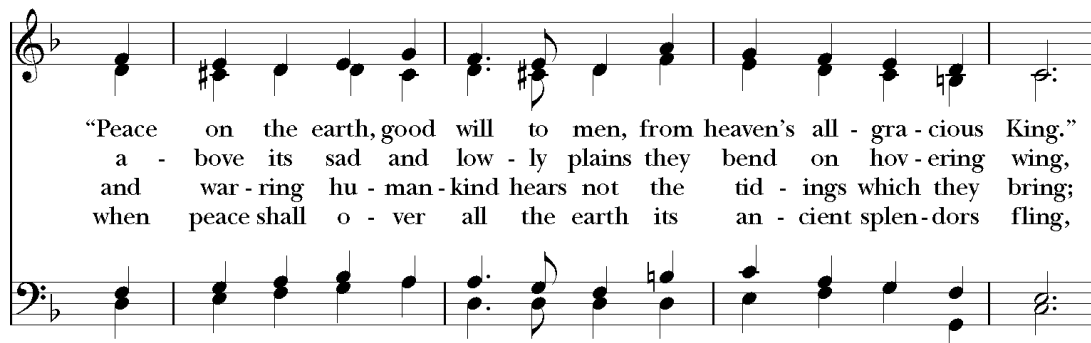
## Hymn *Noel*



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 heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
be - neath the heav - en - 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:* Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

*All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



## The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

*Reader: A Vestry Member Emeritus*

**A**nd 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

*Balulalow*

O my deir hert, young Jesus sweit  
Prepare thy craddil in my spreit  
And I sall rock thee in my heart  
And never mair from thee depart. Balulalow.

But I sall praise Thee evermoir  
With sangis sweit unto thy gloir;  
The knees of my heart sall I bow  
And sing that richt Balulalow!

*Words:* James, John and Robert Wedderburn

*Music:* Sasha Johnson Manning (b. 1963)

*All stand and join in singing the following Hymn*

## Hymn

### *Gabriel's Message*

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:* Traditional Basque Carol

*All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



## The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

### *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Reader: The Parish Treasurer*

**A**nd 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**

*Bethlehem Down*

When he is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
Beautiful robes, said the young girl to Joseph,  
Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

*Words:* Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)

*Music:* Peter Warlock (1894-1930)





## The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

*Reader: The Junior Warden*

**A**nd 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

*No Sad Thought His Soul Affright*

No sad thought his soul affright,  
Sleep it is that maketh night;  
Let no murmur nor rude wind  
To his slumber prove unkind:  
But a quire of angels make  
His dreams of heav'n, and let him wake  
To as many joys as can  
In this world befall a man.

Promise fills the sky with light,  
Stars and angels dance in flight;  
Joy of heav'n shall now unbind  
Chains of evil from mankind,  
Love and joy their power shall break,  
And for a new-born prince's sake;  
Never since the world began  
Such a light such dark did span.

*Words: Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911-2007)*

*Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*All stand and join in singing the following Hymn*

## Hymn

### *Silent Night*



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 Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8–16

### *The shepherds go to the manger*

*Reader:* The Senior Warden

**A**nd 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

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

*Soloists: Darcie Johnson, Dan Seymour*

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 suffic'd  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breast full of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

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)*

*All stand and join in singing the following Hymn*

## Hymn

*Winchester Old*

*Descant*

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

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 throug

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 - vior, 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:* The Whole Book of Psalmes  
*Descant:* Alan Gray (1855-1935)

*All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn*



## The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus*

*Reader: An Assistant Rector*

**N**ow 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## Carol

### *The Three Kings*

Dayne Newberry, Soloist

Three kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King:  
Gold, incense, myrrh their offering.

*How brightly beams the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heav'n afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray,  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee,  
As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
The kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

*Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

*Words:* Henry Newell Bate (1828-1917)  
*Music:* Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)  
arr. Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)





*All stand for the reading of the Lesson*

## The Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

*Reader: The Rector*

**I**n 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 following Hymn*

# Hymn

## *Adeste Fideles*

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:* attr. John Francis Wade

*Descant:* David Willcocks (1855-1935)

## The Rector's Greeting

### Carol

*In Dulci Jubilo*

In dulci jubilo  
Let us our homage shew;  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
In praesepio;  
And like a bright star shineth,  
Matris in gremio,  
Alpha est et O!

O Jesu parvule,  
I yearn for thee always!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
O puer optime;  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
O princeps gloriae.  
Trahe me post te!

O Patris caritas!  
O Nati lenitas!  
Deeply were we stained.  
Per nostra criminal:  
But thou has for us gained  
Coelorum gaudia,  
Qualis gloria!

Ubi sunt gaudia,  
If that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
Nova cantica;  
There the bells are ringing  
In Regis curia.  
O that we were there!

*Words:* adapted Reginal Jacques

*Music:* German tune, arr. R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)



## Vesper Responsory

*Officiant* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us;  
*People* And we beheld his glory.

*Officiant* The glory of the Lord has been revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God;  
*People* And we beheld his glory.

*Officiant* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
*People* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.

## A Collect for Christmas

*Officiant* Behold, the dwelling of God is with men;  
*People* He will dwell with us and we shall be his people.

*Officiant*

**T**o 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

**M**ay 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

Mendelssohn

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: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

# Organ Voluntary

*Fantasia super In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



## Participants in the Service

### *Officiant*

The Rev. Andrew John Archie

### *Readers*

Mr. Fletcher Anderson	First Lesson
Mrs. Alexis Posnanski	Second Lesson
Mr. Mark Throdahl	Third Lesson
Mrs. Ruth Ezell	Fourth Lesson
Mr. David Ott	Fifth Lesson
Mrs. Frankie Eichenberger	Sixth Lesson
Mr. Joseph Sheehan	Seventh Lesson
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	Eighth Lesson
The Rev. Andrew John Archie	Ninth Lesson

## The Choir of The Church of St. Michael & St. George

S. William Aitken, *Interim Organist and Choral Director*

### *Soprano*

Anna Albinson  
Romaine Filges  
Darcie Johnson  
Sarah Sheldon

### *Alto*

Ann Babington  
Anna Drexelius  
Dianne Duncan  
Katherine Gandlmayr  
Susan Taylor

### *Tenor*

Dereck Basinger  
Andrew Martin  
John McDonald

### *Bass*

James Haessig  
Kevin Koontz  
Dayne Newberry  
Dan Seymour



## Christmas Liturgies

### Sunday, December 24 — Advent IV; Christmas Eve

- 8:00 am The Holy Eucharist *for* Advent IV
- 10:00 am Choral Eucharist *for* Advent IV
- 4:00 pm Nativity Pageant and The Holy Eucharist\*
- 6:30 pm Choral Eucharist *of the* Incarnation\*
- 10:30 pm Carol Service of Preparation and Praise\*
- 11:00 pm Solemn Midnight Eucharist *of the* Incarnation I\* — *Incense will be used*

### Monday, December 25 — Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Choral Eucharist *of the* Incarnation\*

### Sunday, December 31 — Christmas I

- 8:00 am The Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 am Choral Eucharist \*
- 5:00 pm The Holy Eucharist, *Rite II*

### Monday, January 1 — The Holy Name of Jesus

- 10:00 am The Holy Eucharist

*\* The Choir will sing at these livestreamed liturgies*

*Full details of all liturgical offerings are available at [www.csmsg.org](http://www.csmsg.org)*



*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.*







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The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	<i>Priest Associate; Theologian in Residence</i>
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Mr. S. William Aitken	<i>Interim Organist and Choral Director</i>

