



*A Christmas Festival of
Nine Lessons and Carols*

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 26, 2021

A Christmas Festival of
NINE LESSONS *and* CAROLS

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880. The lessons were reordered in 1919, and what follows are the lessons that have been used since that time. At King's College, the Festival is a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons, and music, move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide. Many other parishes have adopted the tradition, occasionally modifying it as needed. The complete service can be a bit lengthy, and it is not unusual to omit a lesson. The lesson texts presented here use the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, but at King's College, the Authorized Standard (also known as King James) Version is always used.

*It is our hope that you, the congregation, will sing amain
wherever you are on this second day of Christmas.*

Prelude

STILL, STILL, STILL

Austrian carol; arranged for piano by Joseph Martin

Processional

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

John Mason Neale (1818-1866); *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th century

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Dear People of God:

In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our nation and in this county.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying: (The Lord's Prayer)

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

The Invitatory

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934); 16th-century French melody

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And i - o, i - o, i - o, by priest and people sungen. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your Evetime Song, ye singers: *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are banished from the Garden of Eden.

Choral Anthem

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Charles Wesley (1707-1788); *Jefferson*, American folk hymn tune

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone,
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

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

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Latin, ca. 9th century; *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, 15th century

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Song of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING IN

Legend, 15th century; Traditional English carol

Choir: I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Congregation: And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?

Choir: The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Congregation: And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning.

All: Then let us all rejoice amain, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice amain, on Christmas Day in the morning.

The Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-3a, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

St. 1-2, 15th-century German, st. 3 F. Layritz (1808-1859);

Es ist ein Ros, 16th-century German melody

Solo: 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.

Choir: 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.

All: O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

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

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO THE LORD

Morning Song, an American folk hymn tune

Solo: My soul gives glory to my God, My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

Choir: My God has done great things for me: Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed, And blessings they shall claim.

Choir: From age to age to all who fear, Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near, Dismissing selfish hearts.

Congregation: Love casts the mighty from their thrones, Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; The rich seem suddenly poor.

All: Praise god, whose loving covenant Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises With present faithfulness.

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Choral Anthem

STILL, STILL, STILL

19th-century Austrian; arr. Anna Laura Page

Still, still, still, see the Child asleep so still;
and Mary gently rocks her Baby singing songs of love and mercy.
Still, still, still, see the Child so still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, my tender little Baby, sleep.
The angels sing glad songs before you, praising and rejoicing o'er you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, my tender Baby, sleep.

Love, love, love, great is God's mighty love.
He left His throne in heav'n above and came to earth to show His love.
Love, love, love, great is God's mighty love, great is God's mighty love.

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

London text, 18th century, based on Luke 2: 8-20; Traditional English carol

Men: God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
All: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Women: From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
All: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Men: "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."
All: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Women: The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm, and wind;
and went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find.
All: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891); *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Choir: We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

All: *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light!*

Choir: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

All: *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Choir: Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High,

All: *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light!*

Choir: Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

All: *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light!*

All: Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light!*

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

St. John explains the mystery of the incarnation.

Vocal Meditation

THE BIRTHDAY OF A KING

William Harold Neidlinger (1863-1924)

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day,
And the sky was bright with the holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!

And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'Twas the birthday of a King.

*'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much God gave to us that day,
From the manger bed what a path has led, What a perfect, holy way.*

The Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. *Amen.*

Welcome

Recessional

Carol for the Choir and Congregation

JOY TO THE WORLD

Isaac Watts (1674-1748); *Antioch*, George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

I SAW THREE SHIPS

Arranged for piano by Joseph Martin

*Organist/Choirmaster
Tara Ford*

Lectors

*First Lesson – Sharon Boivin
Second Lesson – Greg Schumacher
Third Lesson – Greg Schumacher
Fourth Lesson – Tom Woolfolk
Fifth Lesson – Jill Schumacher
Sixth Lesson – Jill Schumacher
Seventh Lesson – Sharon Boivin
Eighth Lesson – Greg Schumacher
Ninth Lesson – Tom Woolfolk*

*Altar Guild: Amy Shiflett
Usher: Greg Schumacher
Counters: Lisa Walton/Jill Schumacher*

The Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and...

In Loving Memory of

*Robert Owens
Janyce Caulkins
Gloria Hipskind
Barbara Gessford
Our Parents
Our Parents
Don and Carol Stalter
Charles and Gretna Walton
Our Parents
Zeta Estes
Michael Lazzuri*

Given by

*Warren and Pat Gehle
Wes and Linda Harvey
Wes and Linda Harvey
Clarence "CIG" Gessford
Bill and Paula Treiber
LaVahn and Mary-Frances Hoh
Allen and Lisa Walton
Allen and Lisa Walton
Bruce and Linda Boxley
Anna Lou Flynn
Rev. Jennifer Lazzuri*

In Thanksgiving for

*The St. James Altar Guild
Our Family
All Our Blessings
All the People of St. James – who have
demonstrated their resilience, their love
for each other and their community, time
and time again*

*Clarence "CIG" Gessford
Bruce and Linda Boxley
Wes and Linda Harvey
Rev. Jennifer Lazzuri*

We welcome all visitors to St. James.

We are grateful you have come.

Please do sign the guest register near the front door of the church.

Happy New Year!