

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve 2019 at 3 pm

Welcome to this special service. We are very grateful to you for coming to share with us in this great occasion, which is an act of worship for us here in Chapel as well as for the millions who will join us around the world.

Before the service begins, please note the following requests:

- To a radio audience, coughing is a particular distraction, much more so than to others in the Chapel. You are therefore asked to keep any such sounds to an absolute minimum.
- Please double-check that your mobile phone is turned off. The same applies to chiming watches or other devices which are likely to be heard by sensitive microphones.
- Please put your contribution to the collection, which goes to support the work of the Chapel, in the Gift Aid envelope that you will find in this order of service, and add it, duly completed, to the collection as you leave.
- In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the Chapel please follow the directions of the stewards, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and invite you to join us for any of our choral services in the future, in particular our Sung Eucharist with Carols at 11 am on Christmas Day.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

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

The 1918 service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his cathedral in Truro at 10 pm 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'. Milner-White used Benson's plan, but wrote the now-classic Bidding Prayer to set the tone at the beginning. Since then the spoken parts, which provide the backbone of the service, have only occasionally been changed.

The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass had been removed from the Chapel – some way you could hear the tar-paper flapping in the background over the radio.

In the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programmes. It is estimated that there are millions of

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

From time to time the College receives copies of services held many thousands of miles from Cambridge, and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent wrote of hearing the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, some are busy with their own preparations for Christmas; others make time to sit down, either alone or with friends, and join in with the congregational carols, perhaps having previously printed out this order of service.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer. Personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light'. Many today will think of a loved one who has died in the course of the last year when they hear those words, and for many participating this year it will be impossible not to remember Stephen Cleobury and his family at precisely this moment.

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC

King's has been blessed with a succession of extremely distinguished musicians as its Organist and, as the post is now styled, Director of Music. All of these have made their own distinctive contribution to the Festival, not least Sir Stephen Cleobury, who died just over a month ago, having retired last summer. It was Stephen who introduced and maintained the practice of commissioning a new carol each year (the full list can be seen towards the back of this booklet). Many tributes to Stephen have been made in recent weeks and we add modestly to those today in the musical choices in this service, specifically in the use of his arrangements of 'Joys Seven', 'Silent Night' and 'Away in a Manger', and in the descant for 'Once in Royal'.

Daniel Hyde joined us at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, and so this is his first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as Director of Music. Daniel was organ scholar from 2000 to 2003, so is no stranger to the occasion.

Arthur Henry Mann 1876–1929

Boris Ord 1929–57

Harold Darke (Ord's substitute during the war) 1940–45

Sir David Willcocks 1957–74

Sir Philip Ledger 1974–82

Sir Stephen Cleobury 1982–2019

Daniel Hyde 2019–

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541 *Bach*

Variations sur un vieux Noël Op. 20 *Dupré*

Einige canonische Veränderungen über das Weihnachtslied,
'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her' BWV 769a *Bach*

¶ *All stand for the civic procession, during which is played:*

Herr Christ, der einge Gottessohn BWV 601 *Bach*

¶ *All sit when invited to do so by the stewards.*

Les Anges (from 'La Nativité') *Messiaen*

Puer natus in Bethlehem BWV 603 *Bach*

Les Bergers (from 'La Nativité') *Messiaen*

In Dulci Jubilo BuxWV 197 *Buxtehude*

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

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ *The congregation will be invited to stand when the Choir is ready in the Ante-Chapel, so that all may be silent when the hymn starts. All join in singing at the third verse.*

Solo

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.

Choir

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern:
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children, crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Words: C. F. Alexander

Music: H. J. Gauntlett; harm. A. H. Mann; desc. Cleobury

Encore

¶ *All remain standing.*

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dean Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Chapel, dedicated to Mary, his most blessed Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this University and City of Cambridge, and in the two royal and religious Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton:

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father;

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 in earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive them that trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
 Amen.

Dean The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us
 the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the
 citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All Amen.

¶ *The congregation sits.*

CAROL

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

Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before thy grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King.

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

*Words and music: Sussex Carol arr. Vaughan Williams
Novello*

FIRST LESSON

¶ *read by a Chorister.*

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

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19

CAROL

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I'll tell:
woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
till God the Lord did interpose,
and so a promise soon did run
that he would redeem us by his Son.

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

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

Words and music: Herefordshire Carol arr. Vaughan Williams & C. Robinson

SECOND LESSON

¶ *read by a Choral Scholar.*

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

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

Genesis 22.15–18

CAROL

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 field 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
Oxford University Press*

CAROL

Ding! dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding! dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angels 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!

Words: G. R. Woodward

*Music: 16th century French, arr. Willcocks
OUP*

THIRD LESSON

¶ *read by a representative of Cambridge churches.*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 9.2, 6–7

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *As the organ introduction begins, all stand to sing.*

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heav'n's all gracious king.'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on
by prophets bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: E. H. Sears

Music: Engl. trad. arr. Sullivan & J. Scott
OUP

¶ *All sit.*

CAROL

Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: ye
shall find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in
a manger.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: from Luke 2.11, 12 & P. Brooks

Music: Walford Davies

FOURTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Chaplain.*

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9

CAROL

Alleluia.

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

For in that rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space;

res miranda.

[a miraculous thing]

By that rose we may well see
that he is God in Persons three,

pari forma.

[equal in form]

Alleluia.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:

gaudeamus.

[let us rejoice]

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

Words: Anon. c.1420

*Music: Maconchy
Chester*

CAROL

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child;
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Words: Blake

*Music: Tavener
Chester*

FIFTH LESSON

¶ *read by a member of the College staff.*

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

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

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

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

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

Words: from a Basque original

Music: Philip Moore - commissioned for this service

Encore

CAROL

The first good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of one;
to see the blessed Jesus Christ
when he was first her son:

*When he was first her son, good man,
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of two;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
to make the lame to go:

*To make the lame to go, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of three;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
to make the blind to see:

*To make the blind to see, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of four;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
to read the Bible o'er:

*To read the Bible o'er, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of five;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
to bring the dead alive:

*To bring the dead alive, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of six;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
upon the crucifix:

*Upon the crucifix, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
it was the joy of seven;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ,
to wear the crown of heaven:

*To wear the crown of heaven, good man:
and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
to all eternity.*

*Words and music: Joys Seven trad., arr. Cleobury
OUP*

SIXTH LESSON

¶ *read by a representative of the City of Cambridge.*

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: after J. Mohr

*Music: F. Grüber, arr. Cleobury
Encore*

CAROL

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother?
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
but Mary will hold him, and sing him to sleep.

Candlelight...

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay,
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Candlelight...

*Words and music: Rutter
OUP*

SEVENTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Director of Music.*

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *As the organ introduction begins, all stand to sing.*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

‘To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.’

¶ *All sit.*

CAROL

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

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

Words: anon.

*Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick, arr. Cleobury
OUP*

EIGHTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Vice-Provost.*

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2.1–12

CAROL

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.
Lully, thou little tiny child,
lully, lulla, 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 children young to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever mourn and say
for thy parting nor say nor sing,
by, by, lully, lullay.

Text: Coventry Carol 15th C. English

*Music: Leighton
Novello*

CAROL

Nowell.

Who is there that singeth so, *Nowell?*

I am here, Sir Christèmas.

Welcome, my Lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less, come near. *Nowell.*

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,

[God protect you, good sirs]

tidings I you bring:

a maid hath borne a child full young,

which causeth you to sing: *Nowell.*

Christ is now born of a pure maid;

in an ox stall he is laid,

wherefore sing we at abrayde: *Nowell.*

Buvez bien, buvez bien

[drink well, throughout the gathering]

par toute la compagnie.

Make good cheer and be right merry,

and sing with us now joyfully: *Nowell.*

Nowell!

Words: anon., c.1500

Music: Mathias

OUP

¶ *All stand.*

NINTH LESSON

¶ *read by the Provost.*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

John 1.1–14

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *Sung by all, standing. In verses 1–5 the first two lines of the refrain are sung by upper voices only.*

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of Angels.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

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

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created.

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

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

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

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Words and music: J. F. Wade, desc. Willcocks
OUP*

¶ *All remain standing.*

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

Dean The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Dean Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All Amen.

Dean Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

¶ *Sung by all, standing.*

Hark! the herald-angels sing:
‘Glory to the new-born King!
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!’
Joyful, all ye nations rise!
Join the triumph of the skies!
With the angelic host proclaim:
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

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

¶ *The congregation is asked to be as quiet as possible during the two organ voluntaries as they are being broadcast and recorded.*

¶ *All remain standing in their places for the organ voluntary.*

Symphony No. 6 in B Op. 59 - v Final

Vierne

¶ *All remain standing while the processions leave.*

¶ *When the processions have left, members of the congregation may make their way from the building.*

¶ *Thank you for joining us today for this service. Please do not forget to contribute to the retiring collection as you leave the Chapel. If you would like to make a more considered or sustained financial contribution to help support the life of the Chapel or Choir, the Dean or Director of Music would be delighted to hear from you.*

CHRISTMAS COMMISSIONS AT KING'S

- 1983 *In Wintertime* Lennox Berkeley
1984 *Fix on one star* Peter Maxwell Davies
1985 *Illuminare Jerusalem* Judith Weir
1986 *Nowell (Holly Dark)* Richard Rodney Bennett
1987 *What sweeter music* John Rutter
1988 *The Birthday of thy King* Peter Sculthorpe
1989 *St Steven was a clerk* Alexander Goehr
1990 *Bogoróditse Dyevo* Arvo Pärt
1991 *The text is of a gathering* John Casken
1992 *Sweet Jesu, King of blisse* Nicholas Maw
1993 *When Christ was born (Christo paremus cantica)* Diana Burrell
1994 *The Angels* Jonathan Harvey
1995 *Seinté Mari moder milde* James MacMillan
1996 *Pilgrim Jesus* Stephen Paulus
1997 *Fayrfax Carol* Thomas Adès
1998 *Winter Solstice Carol* Giles Swayne
1999 *Dormi, Jesu!* John Rutter
1999 *On Christmas Day to my heart* Richard Rodney Bennett
2000 *The Three Kings* Jonathan Dove
2000 *The Shepherd's Carol* Robert Chilcott
2001 *Spring in Winter* John Woolrich
2002 *The angel Gabriel descended* Robin Holloway
2003 *The Gleam* Harrison Birtwistle
2004 *God Would be Born in Thee* Judith Bingham
2005 *Away in a Manger* John Tavener
2006 *Misere' Nobis* Mark-Anthony Turnage
2007 *Advent Responsories/High Word of God* Philip Ledger, David Willcocks
2007 *Now comes the Dawn* Brett Dean
2008 *Mary* Dominic Muldowney
2009 *The Christ Child* Gabriel Jackson
2010 *Christmas Carol* Einojuhani Rautavaara
2011 *Christmas Eve* Tansy Davies
2012 *Ring Out, Wild Bells* Carl Vine
2013 *Hear the Voice of the Bard* Thea Musgrave
2014 *De Virgine Maria* Carl Rütti
2015 *The Flight* Richard Causton
2016 *This Endernight* Michael Berkeley
2017 *Elisha's Carol/Carol Eliseus* Huw Watkins
2018 *O Mercy Divine* Judith Weir
2019 *The Angel Gabriel* Philip Moore

BECOMING A CHORISTER AT KING'S

If you know a boy in school-year 2, 3 or 4 who likes singing and enjoys music, do please consider contacting the Choir Office to learn more about becoming a chorister here.

choir@kings.cam.ac.uk or 01223 331224.

King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST

www.kings.cam.ac.uk/choir

Dean
The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

Director of Music
Daniel Hyde

Chaplain
The Revd Andrew Hammond

Organ Scholar
Donal McCann

Dean's Verger
Ian Griffiths

After tomorrow morning's service, the Chapel will be closed to visitors until Thursday 2nd January 2020, apart from special tours which may be booked through the College website. Choral services will resume on Wednesday 15th January 2020.