

A FESTIVAL
OF NINE
LESSONS
& CAROLS

Christmas Eve, 2023

3.00 pm

King's College Chapel
Cambridge

WELCOME *from* THE DEAN

THANK YOU for joining us for this great occasion. It is a wonderful act of worship, both for us in Chapel and for the millions joining us by radio around the world. As a courtesy to BBC Radio 4, the service will start a few minutes after 3 pm. It will continue until almost 4.40 pm.

The initials KC in this booklet are used to designate membership of King's College.

The membership of King's College Choir changes every year. If you would like to know more about being a member of the Choir, or to hear about life as a Chorister, Choral Scholar or Organ Scholar, please contact us by email to begin an informal exploration.

choir@kings.cam.ac.uk
kings.cam.ac.uk/choir

I hope that you will be able to join us for other choral services in the future. Tomorrow we celebrate Christmas Day itself, with a Eucharist with carols at 11.00 am.

Finally, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry *Dean*

§ *To help all who attend to find this a beautiful and meaningful experience we ask, please, that you:*

- ✦ *Ensure your phone is turned off, and that you refrain from photography, videography or any other form of recording;*
- ✦ *Follow the invitations to stand or sit as you are able, and that you always feel free to sit, if that is more comfortable for you;*
- ✦ *Place your offering, which goes to support the work of the Chapel, in the Gift Aid envelope which you will find in this order of service, adding it to the collection as you leave;*
- ✦ *In the event of an evacuation of the Chapel, listen carefully to any announcements and follow the stewards' directions calmly;*
- ✦ *Should you feel unwell, alert one of the stewards, who will engage one of the paramedics in attendance;*
- ✦ *Wait quietly for the service to start.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

§ *Paul Greally, organ scholar, plays:*

Fantasia in C BK 25

William Byrd
Bärenreiter Verlag

La Nativité du Seigneur
i La vierge et l'enfant

Olivier Messiaen
Éditions Alphonse Leduc

Prelude in D BuxWV 139

Dieterich Buxtehude
Bärenreiter Verlag

§ *All stand for the Præposital Procession.*

La Nativité du Seigneur
vi Les anges

Olivier Messiaen
Éditions Alphonse Leduc

§ *All sit as the organ scholar plays:*

Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 550

Johann Sebastian Bach
Bärenreiter Verlag

In dulci jubilo BuxWV 197

Dieterich Buxtehude
Bärenreiter Verlag

I SAW A STABLE

I SAW a stable, low and very bare,
A little child in a manger.
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care,
To men He was a stranger.
The safety of the world was lying there.
And the world's danger.

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge
Oxford University Press

ORDER of SERVICE

§ *All stand.*

HYMN

§ *The Choir alone sings verses 1–2.*



*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.*

*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.*

please turn the page quietly

§ *All sing.*

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 heav'n 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.

Cecil Frances Alexander

'Irby'

Henry Gauntlett, harm. Arthur Henry Mann κC

verse 6 arr. *Philip Ledger* κC

BIDDING PRAYER

§ *All remain standing.*

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 health over all the earth;
for unity and goodwill within the Church he
 came to build,
and especially in the dominions of our
 sovereign lord King Charles,
within this University and City of Cambridge,
and in the two royal and religious Foundations of
 King Henry VI,
here and at Eton:

please turn the page quietly

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 and the hungry,
the abused, the exploited, the hated, and the oppressed;
the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn;
the isolated, the lonely and the unloved;
the elderly 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.

And let us hold in our hearts all those who,
even as we are gathered here,
endure the depredations and travails of war,
praying that the story of the Christ-child may draw
 them closer to the nearness of God's love,
and offer new hope in the gospel of peace
 and loving-kindness.

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:

Dean 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.

§ *All sit.*

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

OUT of youre slepe aryse and wake,
for God mankynd now hathe y-take
al of a maide without any make.
Of all women she berethe the belle.

And þrowe a maide fayre and wys
now man is made of full grete prys;
now angelys knelen to manys servys;
and at þys tyme all þys byfel.

Now man is bryghter þan þe sonne.
Now man in heven an hye shall wonne.
Blessyd be God þis game is begone
and his moder [the] emperesse of helle.

That ever was thralle, now ys he free;
þat ever was smalle, now grete is she;
now shal God deme bothe thee and me
unto his blysse, yf we do well.

Now man may to heven wende;
now heven and erthe to hym they bende;
he þat was fo now is oure frende.
This is no nay þat I you telle.

Now blessed brother, graunte us grace,
a domes day to se thy face,
and in thy courte to have a place,
þat we mow there singe nowel.

*Out of your sleep arise and wake,
for now God has taken human form
of a maiden without any equal;
among all women she wins the prize.*

*And through a maiden fair and wise
now mankind is made of great value;
now angels kneel at the service of man,
and at this time all this befell.*

*Now man is brighter than the sun,
now man shall dwell in heaven on high;
blessed be God this game is begun
and his mother, the empress of hell!*

*Whoever was a slave, now is he free;
whoever was lowly, now great is she;
now God shall judge both you and me
into his bliss, if we do well.*

*Now man may journey to heaven,
now heaven and earth bow before him;
our foes are now our friends.
there is no denying what I tell you.*

*Now blessed Brother, grant us grace,
on Judgement Day to see thy face,
and in thy court to have a place,
that we may sing there 'Nowell!'*

*anon., 15th-century English
modernised, Eleanor Parker*

Robin Nelson
Banks Music Publications

please turn the page quietly

FIRST LESSON

§ *A Chorister reads the lesson.*

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.

Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

ADAM lay ibowndyn
bowndyn in a bond
fowr' þowsand wynter
þowt he not to long

And al was for an appil
An appil þat he tok
as clerkis fyndyn
wretyn in her' book

Ne hadde þe appil take ben
þe appil taken ben
ne hadde neuer our lady
a ben heuene qwen

Blyssid be þe tyme
þat appil take was
þerfor' we mown syngyn
Deo gracias.

15th-century English
modernised, *Edith Rickert*

*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 clerkës finden
Written in their book.*

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

*Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we may singen:
Thanks be to God!*

*Matthew Martin
Faber Music*

SECOND LESSON

§ *The Chaplain reads the lesson.*

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.

Genesis 22.15–18

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

JERUSALEM reioss for joy:
Jesus the sterne of most bewte
In thee is rissin, as rychtous roy,
Fro dirknes to illumyne the.
With gloriuss sound of angell gle
Thy prince is borne in Baithlehem
Quhilk sall thee mak of thraldome fre.

Illuminare, Jerusalem.

With angellis licht in legionis
Thow art illumynit all about.
Thre kingis of strenge regionis
To the ar cumin with lusty rout,
All drest with dyamantis,
Reverst with gold in every hem,
Sounding attonis with a schout,

Illuminare, Jerusalem.

The regeand tarrant that in the rang,
Herod, is exilit and his ofspring,
The land of Juda that josit wrang;
And rissin is now thy richtouss king.
So he so mychtie is and ding,
Quhen men his gloriuss name dois nem,
Hevin, erd and hell makis inclyning.

Illuminare, Jerusalem.

*Jerusalem, rejoice for joy:
Jesus, the star of greatest beauty
Is risen in thee as righteous king
From darkness to illumine thee.
With glorious sound of angels' glee
Thy prince is born in Bethlehem
Who shall make thee from slavery free.
Shine, O Jerusalem.*

*With the light of angels' legions
Thou art illumined all about;
Three kings from distant regions
Have come to thee in a lusty rout;
All dressed with diamonds,
And trimmed with gold on every hem,
Crying together with one shout,
Shine, O Jerusalem.*

*The raging tyrant who reigned over thee
Herod, is exiled with his offspring,
Who held the land of Judah unjustly,
And risen is now thy rightful king.
Because he is so mighty and deserving,
When his glorious name is spoken
Heaven, earth and hell make their bowing;
Shine, O Jerusalem.*

*anon., 16th-century Scots
modernised, Eleanor Parker*

*Judith Weir KC
Novello & Co. Ltd*

please turn the page quietly

THIRD LESSON

§ *A member of College staff reads the lesson.*

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.

Isaiah 9.2, 6–7

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O RADIANT dawn, splendour of eternal light,
sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,
‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.’
Amen.

Liber Usualis
Isaiah 9.2

James MacMillan
Boosey & Hawkes

§ *All stand.*

please turn the page quietly

HYMN



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.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
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!

Phillips Brooks

English Traditional
arr. *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
descant, *Thomas Armstrong*
Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

please turn the page quietly

FOURTH LESSON

§ *A representative of Eton College reads the lesson.*

The Prophet Isaiah foreshows the peace that Christ will bring.

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.

Isaiah 11.1-4a, 6-9

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

KING Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers,
Where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours.

*There naught is heard
But Paradise bird,
Harp, dulcimer, lute,
With cymbal,
Trump and tymbal,
And the tender soothing flute.*

The Lily, white in blossom there, is Chastity:
The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humility.

There naught is heard &c.

The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience:
The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience.

There naught is heard &c.

The Crown Imperial bloometh too in yonder place:
'Tis Charity, of stock divine, the flower of grace.

There naught is heard &c.

Yet 'mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may claim
The Star of Beth'lem, Jesus, blessed be His Name!

There naught is heard &c.

Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete,
Make thou my heart thy garden plot, fair, trim and neat,

That I may hear

This musick clear:

Harp, dulcimer, lute,

With cymbal,

Trump and tymbal,

And the tender soothing flute.

Traditional Dutch

trans. *George Ratcliffe Woodward*

arr. *Stephen Cleobury* KC

Oxford University Press

CAROL

A SPOTLESS Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
And in the dark midnight,
Amid the winter cold,
A spotless rose unfolds.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
And in the dark midnight,
Amid the winter cold,
The blessed babe she bare.

anon., 14th-century German
trans. *Catherine Winkworth*

Philip Ledger KC
Encore Publications

FIFTH LESSON

§ *A Fellow reads the lesson.*

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.

Luke 1.26–35, 38

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 all the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Sabine Baring-Gould

Basque Carol
arr. *David Willcocks* KC
Oxford University Press

CAROL

COME all you faithful Christians
That dwell here on earth,
Come celebrate the morning
Of our dear Saviour's birth.
This is the happy morning,
This is the blessed morn:
To save our souls from ruin,
The Son of God was born.

Behold the angel Gabriel,
In Scripture it is said,
Did with his holy message
Come to the virgin maid:
'Hail, blest among all women!'
He thus did greet her then,
'Lo, thou shalt be the mother
Of the Saviour of all men.'

Her time being accomplished,
She came to Bethlehem,
And then was safe delivered
Of the Saviour of all men.
No princely pomp attended him,
His honours were but small;
A manger was his cradle,
His bed an ox's stall.

Now to him that is ascended
Let all our praises be;
May we his steps then follow,
And he our pattern be;
So when our lives are ended,
We all may hear him call—
'Come, souls, receive the kingdom,
Prepared for you all.'

English Traditional

Christopher Robinson
Novello & Co. Ltd

please turn the page quietly

SIXTH LESSON

§ *The Mayor of Cambridge reads the lesson.*

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.

Luke 2.1–7

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Nowell, nowell.

Who is there that singeth so?

I am here, Sir Christèmas.

Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!

Welcome to all, both more and less!

Come near!

Nowell, nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,

tidings I you bring:

A maid hath borne a child full young,

which causeth you to sing:

nowell, nowell.

God protect you, good sirs,

Christ is now born of a pure maid,

born of a pure maid;

In an ox-stall he is laid,

Wherefore sing we at a brayde:

nowell, nowell.

Buvez bien

par toute la compagnie.

Make good cheer and be right merry,

and sing with us now joyfully:

nowell, nowell.

Drink well

through all the company

15th-century English

William Mathias

Oxford University Press

§ *All stand.*

please turn the page quietly

HYMN

§ *The Choir alone sings verses 3 & 5.*



THE first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

Nowell &c.

*And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went:*

§ *All sing.*

Nowell &c.

**This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay:**

Nowell &c.

*Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:*

§ *All sing.*

Nowell &c.

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.**

Nowell &c.

Traditional Cornish

Traditional Cornish
arr. *David Willcocks* κC
Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

please turn the page quietly

SEVENTH LESSON

§ *The Director of Music reads the lesson.*

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.

Luke 2.8–16

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

§ *The College commissioned this carol for today's service.*

HE smiles within his cradle,
A babe with face so bright,
It beams most like a mirror
Against a blaze of light:
This babe so burning bright.

This babe we now declare to you
Is Jesus Christ our Lord:
He brings both peace and heartiness:
Haste, haste with one accord
To feast with Christ our Lord.

And who would rock the cradle,
Wherein this infant lies,
Must rock with easy motion
And watch his humble eyes
Like Mary pure and wise.

O Jesus, dearest babe of all
And dearest babe of mine,
Thy love is great, thy limbs are small.
O, flood this heart of mine
With overflow from thine!

17th-century Austrian
trans. *Robert Graves*

Cheryl Frances-Hoad
Chester Music Ltd

please turn the page quietly

EIGHTH LESSON

§ *The Vice-Provost reads the lesson.*

The wise men follow 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.

Matthew 2.1–12

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

§ *This carol was written in memory of Stephen Cleobury KC.*

THE CHRIST-CHILD lay on Mary's lap,

His hair was like a light.

(O weary, weary were the world,

But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,

His hair was like a star.

(O stern and cunning are the kings,

But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,

His hair was like a fire.

(O weary, weary is the world,

But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,

His hair was like a crown.

And all the flowers looked up at Him,

And all the stars looked down.

A Christmas Carol
Gilbert Keith Chesterton

John Rutter
Oxford University Press

CAROL

Procedenti puero

Eya, nobis annus est!

Virginis ex utero

Gloria! Laudes!

Deus homo factus est

et immortalis.

To the boy who comes forth

Hurrah, this is our year!

From the Virgin's womb:

Glory! Praises!

God is become man

and immortal.

Sine viri semine

Eya, nobis annus est!

Natus est de virgine:

Gloria &c.

Without a man's seed

Hurrah, this is our year!

Is he born of a virgin:

Glory &c.

Sine viri copia

Eya, nobis annus est!

Natus est ex Maria:

Gloria &c.

Without a man's aid

Hurrah, this is our year!

Is he born of Mary:

Glory &c.

In hoc festo determino

Eya, nobis annus est!

Benedicamus Domino!

Gloria &c.

In this feast which has no end

Hurrah, this is our year!

Let us bless the Lord!

Glory &c.

15th-century English

*Peter Warlock
Boosey & Hawkes*

§ *All stand.*

please turn the page quietly

NINTH LESSON

§ *The Provost reads the lesson.*

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.

John 1.1-14

Thanks be to God.

HYMN



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.

O come, let us adore him &c.

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps.

O come, let us adore him &c.

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:

O come, let us adore him &c.

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?

O come, let us adore him &c.

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:**

O come, let us adore him &c.

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

O come, let us adore him &c.

Adeste, fideles
trans. *Frederick Oakley,*
William Thomas Brooke et al.

'Adeste, fideles'
John Francis Wade
arr. *David Willcocks* κC
verse 7 refrain arr. *Daniel Hyde* κC
Oxford University Press & Daniel Hyde

please turn the page quietly

COLLECT & BLESSING

Dean THE LORD be with you.

All AND WITH **thy spirit.**

Dean Let us pray.

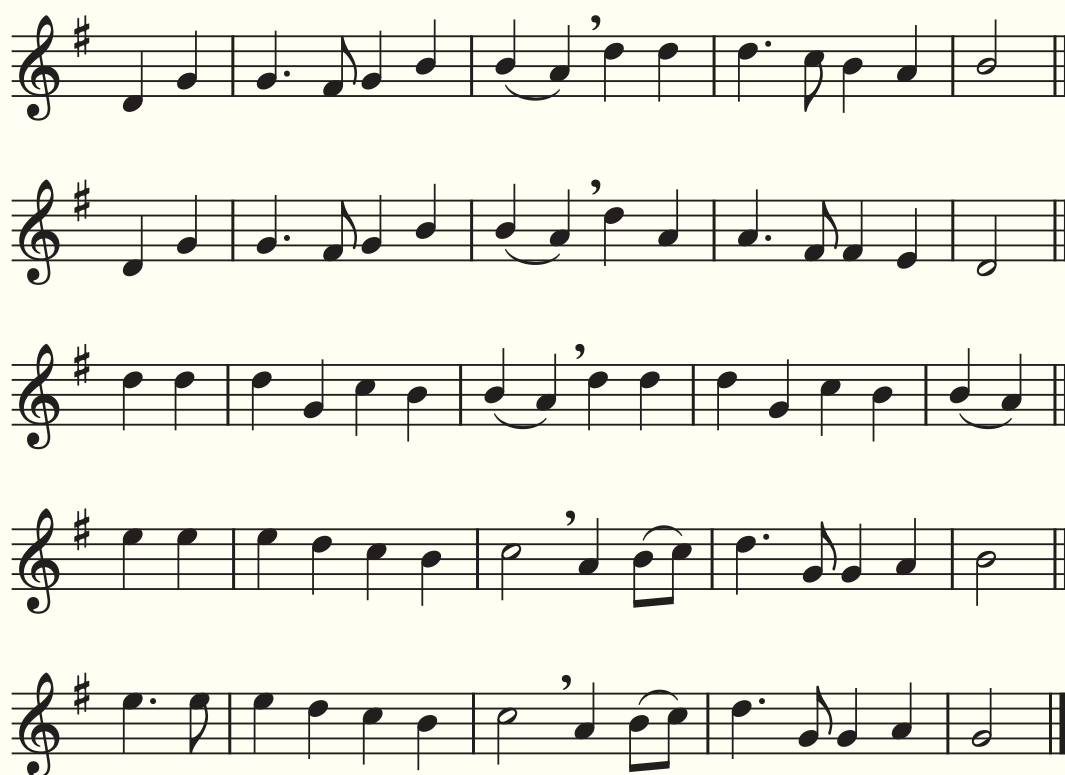
O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly
remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ:
grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him,
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
world 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.**

HYMN



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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

please turn the page quietly

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley et al.
adapt. *William Hayman Cummings*

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
verse 3 arr. *David Willcocks* KC
Oxford University Press

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

§ *As both organ voluntaries will be broadcast, please be as quiet as possible while they are played.*

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach
Bärenreiter Verlag

La Nativité du Seigneur
ix Dieu parmi nous

Olivier Messiaen
Éditions Alphonse Leduc

AT THE END *of* THE SERVICE

§ *All remain standing as the procession leaves the Chapel during the second organ voluntary.*

§ *Members of College and their guests follow the procession.*

§ *Please give generously to the retiring collection, which supports the life and work of the Chapel, using the Gift Aid envelope provided.*

§ *A contactless donation point is available in the Ante-Chapel.*

§ *Twenty per cent of all our collections is donated to charitable causes beyond the College.*

§ *Thank you for joining us for this service; please leave the College through the main gate onto King's Parade.*

* * *

from THE COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

I FEEL honoured to have been asked to write a carol for this year's *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, 40 years after Sir Stephen Cleobury commissioned the first carol for this service from Lennox Berkeley.

I wanted to write a peaceful, understated piece, and after much searching discovered the text of 'The Cradle'. The words seemed to me to be moving without being overly sentimental and the description of Baby Jesus's 'face so bright', beaming 'most like a mirror', was instantly inspiring. I aimed to convey the tenderness of the text in the fabric of my musical setting: for instance, I imagined the gradually lengthening notes in the third verse to represent a mother gradually slowing the rocking of a cradle, then tiptoeing away, as her baby falls asleep. In the second verse, the declarations are made in hushed tones, much as any parent might proclaim the bright future of their newborn to them, in whispers whilst they sleep.

Cheryl Frances-Hoad

DEAN

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

DIRECTOR *of* MUSIC

Daniel Hyde

CHAPLAIN

The Revd Dr Mary Kells

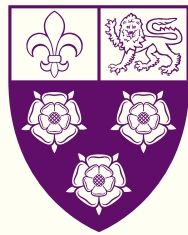
CHAPEL MANAGER

Emily Lyons

ORGAN SCHOLAR

Paul Greally





KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
MMXXIII