

Festival of Lessons and Carols



ORDER OF SERVICE

6:00 Sat/Sun 19/20th December
2020

All Saints' Church
Warlingham

Lessons and Carols

The service of Lessons and Carols (originally nine) was created by Edward Benson, Bishop of Truro, in 1880, at the suggestion of G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh.

When Edward Benson later became Archbishop of Canterbury, he took a special interest in All Saints' Warlingham and rode across from Addington Palace in Croydon to see our St Christopher wall-painting, and various other features which had been re-discovered during the renovation and extension work in the 1890s.

The Nine Lessons and Carols format was quickly adopted by many other churches, most notably by King's College, Cambridge in 1918. It has been an annual feature of their Christmas worship ever since, and has been broadcast by the BBC every year, save one, since 1928.

The readings trace the story of God's love for his damaged creation and his determination to win us back, starting with the Fall in Genesis, through the prophecies of the coming Messiah (or 'Christ'), to the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, in which, as St. John says: "[God] became flesh and lived amongst us, full of grace and truth".

The music illustrates what poets and composers down the ages - and right up to the modern day - have made of this remarkable and timeless story.

This year to protect one another from the Covid-19 virus, sadly, in accord with the Government rules, the congregation is not allowed to sing. We have provided the words, nonetheless, so that you can follow them in your heart, and maybe sing along to the live-streamed or recorded service in the comfort and safety of your own homes.

***The collection taken at this service will go to Christian Aid.
Please use the red envelopes provided***

Please feel free to take this booklet home.

Processional Carol:

Carol Once in Royal David's City

Mrs C.F.Alexander wrote over 400 hymns. This carol evocatively sets the scene for the Christmas story – as God enters history as a real human baby, to be one of us. This hymn is one of a series she wrote based on the articles of the Creed. The tune is by Henry Gauntlett, arranged by A.H.Mann with the last verse descant by David Willcocks,

- 1) *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.
- 2) He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all
And his shelter was a stable
 and is cradle was a stall
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3) 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
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Welcome and Bidding Prayer;

The Lord's Prayer

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.

*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever
Amen*

1st Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15
*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the
seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Choir: **Adam Lay y Bounden** **Boris Ord**
Only the words of this 15th Century carol survive. They convey a sense of amazement that so much trouble could come from a mere stolen apple, and then, that God could bring so much good out of so much evil. (With hints of Thomas Aquinas' "blessed fault"). This setting is by Boris Ord, organist and choirmaster of King's College Cambridge from 1929 to 1957.

*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 heavené's Queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen "Deo gratias". [God be thanked]*

2nd Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18
God promises to bless the earth through Abraham.

Carol **Of the Father's Heart**
This is from a poem by Prudentius (348-413) which picks up John's theme of the eternal Word, loved from before the beginning of time. The arrangement and descant are by David Willcocks.

*Of the Father's heart begotten ere the world from chaos rose
He is Alpha; from that fountain all that is and has been flows;
He is Omega of all things yet to come: the mystic close
Evermore and evermore.*

*By his word was all created; He commanded and t'was done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean, Universe of three-in-one
All that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun
Evermore and evermore.*

*Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; Angels and Archangels sing!
Where so e'er ye be, ye faithful let your joyous anthems ring.
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering;
Evermore and evermore.*

3rd Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Christ's birth and his kingdom are foretold by the Prophet Isaiah.

Choir: "O Radiant Dawn" – James MacMillan

Based on the Antiphon for 21st December

*"O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice. Come !
Shine on those who dwell in darkness and in 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."*

4th Lesson Luke 2:1-7
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem

This carol was written by Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), an Episcopalian Rector in Philadelphia. He visited Bethlehem in 1865 and, three years later, wrote the poem for his church. The tune we use is the English Folk Tune "Forest Green", collected and arranged by Vaughan-Williams.

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

5th Lesson Luke 2:8-16
The Shepherds go to the Manger.

Choir: Lute Book Lullaby – Wm Ballet 17th Century

This lovely carol comes from William Ballet's 1600 collection of lute music which is now housed in the library of Trinity College, Dublin

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to Beth'lem Judah came
And was delivered of a son,
That blessed Jesus hath to name:
"Lulla, Lulla, Lullaby, sweet babe" sang she,

“My son and eke a saviour born
Who hath vouchsafed from on high
To visit us that were forlorn
La Lulla, la lulla, la lullaby, sweet babe” sang she
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

6th Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11
The wise men are led to Jesus by the star.

Sunday Club Carol: Away in a Manger

With the help of Sue and some very talented parents, Chloe, Elinor, Eloise and Holly from Sunday Club have recorded 'Away in a Manger' for us. Several members of the choir, including our former head chorister Nat helped with the harmonies on verses 2 and 3.

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

7th Lesson John 1:1-14
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation (please stand)

Choir: In Dulci Jubilo

This song, with alternating lines in Latin and English (originally German), was written in about 1328 by the mystic Heinrich Seuse. He later wrote that an angel told him that God had sent to bring him heavenly joys amid his sufferings; then they drew Heinrich into a dance, and the youth began a joyful song about the infant Jesus.

- 1) In dulci jubilo [In quiet joy]
Let us our homage show
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepe [in a manger]
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio! [in the mother's lap]
Alpha es et O! [Thou art Alpha & Omega]

- 2) O Jesu parvule [O *tiny Jesus*]
 My heart is sore for Thee!
 Hear me, I beseech Thee,
 O puer optime! [O *best of boys*]
 My prayer, let it reach Thee,
 O princeps gloriae! [O *prince of glory*]
 Trahe me post te! [*draw me unto thee*]
- 3) O patris caritas, [O *father's caring*]
 O nati lenitas, [O *newborn's gentleness*]
 Deeply were we stained
 Per nostra crimina [*by our sins*]
 But Thou hast for us gained,
 Coelorum gaudia. [*heavenly joy*]
 O that we were there!
- 4) Ubi sunt gaudia [*Where are joys*]
 If that they be not there?
 There are angels singing
 Nova cantica: [*new songs*]
 There the bells are ringing
 In Regis curia. [*in the courts of the king*]
 O that we were there!

Collect, Prayers and Blessing

Carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley's hymn sums up the good news of Christmas in three verses. It is sung to a tune from Mendelssohn's 1840 Cantata 'Festgesang', adapted by Wm. Cummings.

1. 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!"

2. 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 th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"
3. 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 we 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!"

*The Clergy, Churchwardens, Bellringers and Choristers of
All Saints' Church join together in wishing you all a
Happy and Peaceful Christmas!*

www.allsaintswarlingham.org.uk

*Please do join us here at All Saints or on Facebook
for Midnight Eucharist at 11:30 pm
or on Christmas Day at 9:30 am.*

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