



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sung by the Choir of Kilburn Grammar School under the
direction of Mr. D. Merlyn Smith, at Christ Church, Brondesbury

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1
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 his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

5
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.

3
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.

4
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.

Mrs. C. F. Alexander (1823-95)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

INVITATORY: "Break forth, O beautiful heavenly Light" Bach

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3, vv. 8-15.

Reader: D. K. DROWN.

HYMN

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 to-night.

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 wondering love.

3
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.

4
O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 40, vv. 1-11.

Reader: D. H. HUNT.

CAROL: "The Holly and the Ivy" arr. Sir Walford Davies

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9, vv. 2, 6 and 7.

Reader: R. A. R. HILL.

HYMN

1

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray:

Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy,
 comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

2

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.

Chorus.

3

"Fear not, then," said the angel.
"Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him,
From Satan's power and might."

Chorus.

4

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,
The Son of God to find.

Chorus.

5

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay,
His Mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray.

Chorus.

6

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
The holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.

Chorus.

Traditional

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 60, vv. 1-6 and 19.

Reader: N. P. HOLMES.

CAROL: "In Dulci Jubilo" 14th Cent. German, arr. Pearsall

FIFTH LESSON: St. Luke 1, vv. 26-33 and 38.

Reader: G. I. COLE.

SILVER COLLECTION

1
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,
In a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

2
They looked 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:

3
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 wheresoever it went:

4
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:

5
Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

6
Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

SIXTH LESSON: St. Matthew 1, vv. 18-23.

Reader: Mr. E. W. RHODES.

CAROL: "A Virgin Most Pure" Trad. English

SEVENTH LESSON: St. Luke 2, vv. 8-16.

Reader: D. L. E. FRYER.

HYMN

1
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2
"Fear not," said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

3
"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:

4
"The heavenly babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid."

5
Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6
"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease."

(Este's Psalter, 1592)

EIGHTH LESSON: St. Matthew 2, vv. 1-11.

Reader: THE HEADMASTER.

CAROL: "Here is the little door" Herbert Howells

NINTH LESSON: St. John 1, vv. 1-14.

Reader: THE RECTOR.

HYMN

1

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!

2

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to
gaze;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

4

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

(18th Century)

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

THE BLESSING.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Hark! the herald angels sing" Mendelssohn

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 the 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 the Virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesu, our Emmanuel:

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: