

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



December 10, 2011
4 p.m.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

A Christmas service of lessons and carols has been presented here at Spencerville every year for more than two decades, as a part of the Evensong Concert Series. Our service at Spencerville has adhered, more or less closely, to the format and content of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, developed by the clergy and musicians of King's College, Cambridge. That service was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised the College's Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist from 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks. Since 1927, the membership has consisted of fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced by successive Organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Sir Philip Ledger, 1974–82 and, from 1982, Stephen Cleobury. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. 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'. The idea had come from G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when 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 (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel.

Sometime 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. In recent years it has become the practice to broadcast a recording of the service on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963 a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame. In these and other ways the service has become public property.

From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as 'the place where the Carols are sung'.

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 Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. 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 on another shore and in a greater light'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

This year, for the first time here at Spencerville, we incorporate yet another of the elements from the service held at King's College: an extended organ prelude prior to the beginning of the service. We do so this year, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the installation of the Moller pipe organ, an instrument that has provided the bulk of the accompaniments for the service through the years. We hope this prelude will serve to prepare you for the hearing of the lessons and the singing of the carols that is to come.

Thank you for making this service a part of your Christmas celebrations this year. We wish, for you and for your family, the joys and blessings of the season.

adapted from the service description published by King's College, Cambridge

ORGAN PRELUDE

Rhapsodie, sur des Noël's	Eugene Gigout
Prelude on <i>Greensleeves</i>	Richard Purvis
'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'	Johann Sebastian Bach
Toccatà on <i>Veni Emmanuel</i>	Andrew Carter

CAROL FOR GATHERING

In dulci jubilo Let us our homage shew! Our heart's joy reclineth In praesepio And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio. Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O!	<i>In sweet joy in a manger in the Mother's lap You are Alpha and Omega</i>
O Jesu parvule! My heart is sore for thee! Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime! My prayer, let it reach thee, O Princeps gloriae! Trahe me post te, Trahe me post te!	<i>O tiny Jesus O best of boys O Prince of glory Draw me after you</i>
O Partis caritas, O Nati lenitas! Deeply were we stainèd Per nostra crimina; But thou hast for us gainèd Caelorum gaudia. O that we were there!	<i>O love of the Father O gentleness of the Son through our sins the joy of heaven</i>
Ubi sunt gaudia, where? If that they be not there? There are angels singing	<i>Where are the joys?</i>

Nova cantica,
There the bells are ringing
In Regis curia:
O that we were there!

new songs

in the King's court

Words and Music, 14th century German Carol
translated and arranged by Robert L. Pearsall
Collegium Music Publications

All stand and joining in singing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1. Hark! the he - rald - an - gels sing— Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,— God and sin - ners re - con - ciled:
Late in time be - hold him come— Off-spring of a vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings;



Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise,— Join the tri - umph of the skies,—
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,— Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!—
Mild he lays his glo - ry by,— Born that man no more may die,—



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is— born in Beth - le - hem.
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus,— our Em - ma - nu - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to— give them se - cond birth.



Hark! the he - rald - an - gels sing Glo - ry— to the new-born King.

Words, Charles Wesley
Music, arranged from Felix Mendelssohn
Setting by David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

BIDDING PRAYER

Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.

PASTOR:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and 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.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purpose of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child: and let us make this Spencerville Church, dedicated to Him, glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in our community.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those 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 once rejoiced with us, and give us courage and grace to determine to meet upon that other shore, in a greater light, as part of that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus Christ, we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in words which Christ Himself has taught us, saying (together):

ALL:

Our Father, which 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, and the power and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN.

PASTOR:

May the Almighty God bless us with His love, May Christ give us joys of everlasting life. And to the fellowship of angels above, may the King of Angels bring us all.

ALL: Amen.

The congregation sits.

FIRST LESSON

READER: Sarah Lonser, 2nd grade, Spencerville Adventist Academy

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. GENESIS 3

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.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Then after this was God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin,
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

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.

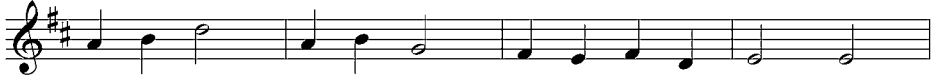
HEREFORDSHIRE CAROL
arranged, James Bingham
verse 5, Ralph Vaughan Williams

HYMN

Sung by all, standing



1. Long a - go, pro-phets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
2. God in time, God in man, This is God's time-less plan:
3. Ma - ry, hail! Though a - fraid, She be - lieved, She o - beyed.
4. Jour - ney ends! Were a - far Beth - lem shines, like a star,



Come to make all things new; Bear his Peo - ple's bur - den,
He will come, as a man, Born him - self of wo - man,
In her womb God is laid: Till the time ex - pect - ed,
Sta - ble door stands a - jar. Un - born Son of Ma - ry,



Free - ly love and par - don. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing,
God di - vine - ly hu - man.
Nur - tured and pro - tect - ed,
Sa - viour, do not tar - ry!



sing, sing! When he comes, when he comes, Who will make him wel - come?
(v.4) Je - sus comes! Je - sus comes! We will make him wel - come!

PERSONET HODIE

1582, Piae Cantiones

The congregation sits.

SECOND LESSON

READER: Cameron Sahly, 7th grade, Spencerville Adventist Academy

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall
the nations of the earth be blessed. GENESIS 22*

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.

CAROL

Veni, veni, Emmanuel,
Captivum solve Israel.
Qui gemit in exilio,
Privatus Dei Filio,
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel.
Nascetur pro te Israel.
Veni, Emmanuel.

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Come, Emmanuel.

VENI EMMANUEL
Words, 9th-century Latin
Music, 15th-century French Processional
arranged by Craig Courtney
Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

THIRD LESSON

READER: Brandon Injety, senior, Spencerville Adventist Academy

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. ISAIAH 9

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.

CAROL

People, look East. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledging-time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shinning beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the east.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
With the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

BESANÇON CAROL
Words, Anonymous and Eleanor Farjeon
arranged by K. Lee Scott
Concordia Publishing House

FOURTH LESSON

READER: Kimberly Westfall, regional manager,
General Conference Auditing Service

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of the little Bethlehem. MICAH V

BUT thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that

she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.

Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring,
 Than a carol for to sing
 The birth of this our heavenly King?

Words, Robert Herrick
 Music, John Rutter
 Oxford University Press

HYMN

Sung by all, standing



1. Joy to the world, the Lord shall come! Let earth re - ceive her King;
 2. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Northorns in - fest the ground;
 3. He'll rule the world with truth and grace, And make the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
 He comes to make his bless - ings flow
 The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav - en, and heav - en and na - ture sing.
 found, Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, and won - ders of His love.

ANTIOCH

Words, Psalms, Isaac Watts
 Music, from Handel's Messiah
 Arranged by Lowell Mason

The congregation is seated.

FIFTH LESSON

READER: Mihee O Kwun, physician, family medicine

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. LUKE I

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

I sing of a maiden That is makeless; (*matchless*)
King of all kings To her son she ches. (*chose*)

He came all so still Where his mother was,
As dew in April That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still To his mother's bower,
As dew in April That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still Where his mother lay,
As dew in April That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady Godës mother be.

Words, 15th-century English
Music, Patrick Hadley
Oxford University Press

CAROL

Gabriel to Mary came,
And entered at her dwelling,
With his salutation glad
Her maiden fears dispelling,
'All hail, thou queen of virgins bright!
God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,
Thy very Son,
Shall soon be born in pureness,
The Saviour of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,
The sinner's healer kind.'

'How could I a mother be
That am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve,
My solemn vows endanger?'
'Power from the Holy Ghost on high
Shall bring to pass this mystery.
Then have no fear:
Be of good cheer, Believing
That still thy chastity
In God's almighty keeping
Shall all unsullied be.'

Then to him the maid replied,
With noble mien supernal,
'Lo! The humble handmaid I
Of God the Lord eternal!
With thee, bright messenger of heav'n,
By whom this wondrous news is giv'n,
I well agree And long to see Fulfilled
Thy gracious prophecy.
As God my Lord doth will it,
So be it unto me!'

Hail! Thou Mother of the Lord,
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,
Peace to angels and to men,
When Christ the lord thou barest!
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
For us our long'd redemption
Himself to win,
And from our sin Release us;
His succor for to give
That, when we hence are taken,
We too in heav'n may live.

Words, Late 13th Century English
Music, 14th Century Irish Carol
Arranged by David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

CAROL

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. *Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

Words, The Angelic Salutation
Music, John Rutter
Oxford University Press

SIXTH LESSON

READER: Rita Fuller, retired high school teacher

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. LUKE 2

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

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:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er their flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new born King.

Saints below the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new born King.

Words, James Montgomery
Music, Malcolm Archer
Oxford University Press

SEVENTH LESSON

READER: John Graz, director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty,
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

The shepherds go to the manger. LUKE 2

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.

CAROL

Noel, Noel, Born is the king, Noel.
The first Noel, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

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.

Refrain.

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.

Refrain.

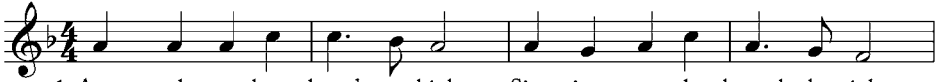
THE FIRST NOEL

Words, English Carol, c. 1823
Music, Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833
arranged by Dan Forrest

Beckenhorst Press

HYMN

Sung by all, standing



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GLORIA

Words and Music, French Carol
Arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes

The congregation is seated.

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 wisemen will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Words and Music John Rutter
Oxford University Press

EIGHTH LESSON

READER: Anne Willsey, retired business woman and volunteer

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. ST MATTHEW II

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.

CAROL

We rode all night thro' fields of darkness,
Our guiding light the Eastern star;
We came to Bethlehem, we all were weary:
We'd travelled far that night, we travelled far.

We heard that here we'd find Messiah,
Foretold by seers from days of old;
We looked for palaces: and found a stable:
Could it be here, so bare and cold?

We entered in and there we saw him;
It seemed we'd known him from long before:
A child like any child, yet somehow different:
The face of ev'ry child in him we saw.

We'd brought him gifts, and now we offered them;
 We knelt down low in silent prayer.
 With eyes that seemed to know both joy and sadness
 The child looked down as we knelt there.

So long ago, yet I remember
 That child who lay at Mary's knee;
 How strange that ev'ry child sees so much like him:
 His is the face I seem to see.

Words and Music, John Rutter
Oxford University Press

HYMN

Sung by all, standing



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; In - cense owns a De - i - ty night;
 4. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and God and sac - ri - fice;



Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing all men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain



O — star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect light.

KINGS OF ORIENT

Words and Music, John H. Hopkins

The congregation is seated.

NINTH LESSON

READER: Al Reese, physician, Dean, School of Medicine,
University of Maryland

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. JOHN I

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: who 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.

CAROL

Shepherds, rise look up and see
New light yonder breaking,
Brighter than the noonday sun,
All your sheep awaking.
Wonder, whisper, "Ah, Noe!"
Christ is born this holy day!
He is come to you,

Lowly shepherds, true!
He is come unto you;
Morning Star and New Day!
Wonder, whisper, "Ah Noe!"

Shepherds, turn your eyes and see
In the manger, sleeping,
Prince of Peace and Heav'nly King,
In His mother's keeping.
Worship Him who brings Noe
He who turns the night to day!
He is come to you,
Lowly shepherds, true!
He is come unto you;
Morning Star and New Day!
Worship Him who brings Noe!

Shepherds, look about and see
In the darkness pining
All God's children long to hear
Of the new Light shining.
Witness of the true Noe!
Share glad tidings of this day!
He is come to you,
Lowly shepherds, true!
He is come unto you;
Morning Star and New Day!
Witness of the true Noe!

Shepherds, run to us and see
Here we are awaiting thee.
Let your voices ring for 'aye
Christ is born! Noe! Noe!

Words, David Warner
Music, French Carol from *Les Noël's Bressans*
Arranged Mack Wilberg
Oxford University Press

COLLECT AND BLESSING

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with thy spirit.

PASTOR: 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.

PASTOR:

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward 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 upon you and remain with you always.

ALL: Amen.

HYMN

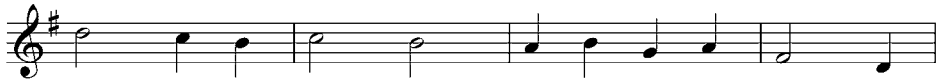
Sung by all, standing



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God of God, Light of Light,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - su, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him Born the King of An - gels:
Ve - ry God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh a - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

ADESTE FIDELIS

Words and Music, John Francis Wade
arranged David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

The congregation is seated.

RECESSIONAL

Fantaisie on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

Johann Sebastian Bach

LEADER OF SERVICE

Pastor Marilyn Scott

READERS

Sarah Lonser

Cameron Sahly

Brandon Injety

Kimberly Westfall

Mihee O Kwun

Rita Fuller

John Graz

Anne Willsey

Al Reese

CHOIRS

The Sanctuary Choir of Spencerville Church

Columbia Collegiate Chorale of Washington Adventist University

DIRECTOR

James Bingham

PIANIST

Mark Di Pinto

CELLIST

Christine Lightner

ORGANIST

Mark Willey

*Thank for attending the service this afternoon. All are invited to a reception,
held in the fellowship hall, following the service today.*

*A free-will offering will be received at the end of the service today. The proceeds
will go towards the expenses of the Evensong Concert Series.*

SPENCERVILLE
EVENSONG CONCERT SERIES

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