A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in King's College Chapel upon Christmas Eve 1918
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ORDER OF SERVICE

1. This service was drawn up from sources ancient and modern by Archbishop Benson for Cathedral use, the Lessons, which tell the whole story of our Redemption, being read in order by the Cathedral ministers from chorister to Bishop. In this Chapel it is adopted also to symbolise and express the loving bond between the two Foundations of King Henry VI here and at Eton, the goodwill between University and Town, and peace within the whole Church of the Lord Jesus, as well the joy and worship of us all at the coming of our Christ.

2. The congregation should stand for the Benedictions and Carols, and also for the Sixth Lesson. Its members should join heartily in the singing of the hymns and verses specially marked for that purpose.

3. A Collection will be made during the Fourth and Sixth Carols out of which grants will be made to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, and to the Cambridge Children's Convalescent Home at Hunstanton.
INVITATORY CAROL.

Up! Good Christian Folk, and listen.

Ding-dong, ding-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong; Ding-a-dong-a-ding.
Up! Good Christian Folk, and listen
How the merry Church bells ring,
And round the steeples
Bid good people
Come adore the New-born King:
Tell the story
How from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,
Showering blessings far and wide,
Born of mother,
Blest of other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable
"Tis no fable,
Christus natus hodie.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN.

Once in Royal David's City.

1. The congregation should join in for the fifth and sixth verses.

1. Once in royal David's city
   Stood a lowly cattle shed,
   Where a Mother laid her Babe
   In a manger for his bed:
   Mary was that Mother mild,
   Jesus Christ her little Child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
   Whose 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.

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.
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, 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.

**HYMN.**

A GREAT and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant With virgin-honor pure.
Repeat the hymn again!
"To God on high be glory, And peace on earth to men!"
The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high! And Cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands, Revere, ye vales and mountains, Ye oceans clap your hands.
Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored, The Infant born in Bethlehem, The Saviour and the Lord.
And idol forms shall perish, And error shall decay, And Christ shall wield his sceptre, Our Lord and God for ay.

(i) Then while the people still stand, the Dean shall say the first Benedicition.

With perpetual benediction may the Father Everlasting bless us. And the people shall answer: Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** GEN. III. 8-15

God announced in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

**READER:** A CHORISTER.

**CAROL.**

**A Virgin most Pure.**

A VIRGIN most pure, as the prophet do tell, Hath brought forth a baby as it hath befit, To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in: Ave and therefore be merry, set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this tide.

At Bethlehem in Jewry a city there was Where Joseph and Mary together did pass, And there to be taxed with many one moe, For Caesar commanded the same should be so: But when they had entered the city so fair, A number of people so mighty there was, That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small, Could find in the inn there no lodging at all:

Then were they constrained in a stable to lie, Where horses and asses they used for to tie; Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn: But against the next morning our Saviour was born.

God, the Son of God, vouchsafe to bless and aid us. Amen.

**SECOND LESSON** GEN. XXIII. 15-18

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

**READER:** A CHAPEL CLERK.

**CAROL.**

BLESSED be that Maid Maria; Born He was of her body; Very God ere time began,
Born in time the Son of Man.

Eya! Iesu hostis
Natus est de Virgine.

In a manger of an ass
Jesa lay and Sull tæd was;
Born to die upon the Tree
Pro peccante homine.

Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the Angel throng,
Peace on earth, Alleluia.
In excelsis gloria.

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Fare three Kings from far-off land,
Incomer, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlehem the Babe they see,
Stelle ducti luminare.

Make we merrily this feast,
In qua Christus natum est;
On this Child I pray you call,
To assault and save us all.

May the grace of the Holy Ghost enlighten us heart and body. Amen.

THIRD LESSON ISAIAH IX. 6, 7
Christ's birth and kingdom is foretold by Isaiah.
READER: AN UNDERGRADUATE MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE.

CAROL.

As up the wood I trod my way,
4th Century Martin Shaw
The oaks were brown and bare,
And all about the snow was white,
The snow was white,
The snow was white;
And all about the snow was white,
And bitter blew the air.

As up the wood I trod my way
The night began to fall,
When out a star shone fair and bright,
Shone fair and bright,
Shone fair and bright;
When out a star shone fair and bright,
And I heard a sweet voice call.

'Come on, come on, thou weary man,'
The sweet voice cried to me,
'For in yon shed where the cattle are,
The cattle are,
The cattle are;
For in yon shed where the cattle are,
I have good sight for thee."

Then suddenly the warm sun rose,
The bare oaks grew to green,
The summer wind was a gentle air,
A gentle air,
A gentle air,
The summer wind was a gentle air,
And I felt not fear or teen.

For golden Gabriel took my hand,
And brought me to the shed,
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary,
Sat Queen Mary;
Where 'mid the cattle sat Queen Mary,
And rocked Lord Jesus' bed.
Then he! good shepherds and masters mine,
We'll cease to moan and groan;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
The Lord of all,
The Lord of all;
For this brave Babe is the Lord of all,
And this is Christmas Eve!

The Almighty Lord bless us with His grace. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON MICAH V. 2, 3, 4
The prophet Micah foreseeth the glory of little Bethlehem.
READER: A FELLOW.

CAROL. G, To be sung by the congregation. Psalm 150:2 Words, 17th Century

While Shepherds watched they slept by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone round.

'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 to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON ST LUKE I. 26-33 and 38
The Angel Gabriel visiteth the Blessed Virgin Mary.

READER: THE VICE-PROVOST.

CAROL.

Unto us is born a Son.

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

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

Yes, Lord, we greet thee,
Bora this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

May the fountain of the Gospel fill us with the doctrine of Heaven. Amen.

SEVENTH LESSON ST LUKE II. 8-16
The Shepherds go unto the Manger.

READER: THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN.

CAROL.

O right, Peaceful and Blest. Old Carol of Hesbaye-

night, peaceful and blest!
For now Jesus doth rest,
Near his fond watchful mother!
Soft light over Him doth shine,
Around, bright angels hover,
He is the Child Divine.

Childing of a Maiden Bright. Melody 12th Century

O Children of a maiden bright!
Life to-day hath brought to light;
And hail put that prince of light;
With his flock of shepds to flight:

Christus nativitas hodie.

Whose aught hast done amiss,
An it rue him sore for this,
Mary's Babe will shrive us,
Gentile as a lamb He is:
Miserere, Domine.
He at Bethlehem was born,
Salem gave Him crown of thorn,
Life of want and death of scorn—
All for love of man forlorn.

Ergo benedicite.

On this Infant may we call,
Born for man in oxen-stall;
He vouchsafe us bliss withal
In His everlasting hall.

Gloria Patri Virgo.

The Creator of all things give us His blessing now and for evermore. Amen.

EIGHTH LESSON  ST. MATTHEW I. 1-11
The Wise Men are led by the Star to Jesus.

READER: THE PROVOST OF ETON.

CAROL.

IN dulci jubilo.

Let us our homage shew
Our heart's joy redeemeth
In processio
And like a bright star shineth
Alpha et O.
Alpha et O.
O Jesu parvi
My heart is sore for Thee
I beseech Thee
O pura optime
My prayer let it reach Thee
O princeps glorie
Trahe me post te.
O Patris Charitas
O mater lenitas
Deep were we stained
Per nostras crimina
But Thou hast for us gained
Celerum gaudia
O that we were there!

Unus sunt gaudia
If they be not there?
There are angels singing
Novae cantico
There the bells are ringing
In regis curia
O that we were there!

Unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

NINTH LESSON GALATIANS IV. 4-7
God maketh us sons through Christ.

READER: THE PROVOST.

CAROL. 1. The Congregation should sing the last verse by themselves, and the refrain throughout.

The First Nowell.

The first Nowell that the Angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they laid keeping their sheep,
In a lowly stable that was so deep:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
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:

And by the light of that same Star
There came three wise men from countries far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wheresoe'er it went;

This Star drew nigh to the North-West,
And at Bethlehem Jery she took up her rest;
And there she did both stop and stay
Right over the house where the King did lay:

Then entered in these wise men three,
Most reverently upon their face,
And offered there, in his presence,
Both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense:

Now let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
Which hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And by his blood mankind hath bought.

1. During the last verse, the Choir proceeds to the Altar, and there sings.

THE MAGNIFICAT.

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
My spirit evermore rejoiced in the Lord my God,
which is my Saviour.
And why? because He did regard
and gave respect unto
so base estate of His handmaid
and let the mighty go.
COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you; the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace, now and evermore. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN. (I. To be sung by all.

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.

Hark! the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

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