A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas 2021

Welcome to this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which is based on the traditional service held each Christmas Eve since 1918 in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. The origins of such a service can, however, be traced back to Truro Cathedral in 1880 when the then Bishop, The Right Rev. Edward White Benson, conducted the first formal service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" in an effort to attract Cornish revellers out of the pubs and into church — in which he was succesful, as more than 400 people attended the service in the temporary wooden structure being used during the time that the Victorian-gothic cathedral we all know today was under construction.

Included in this collection are nine entirely new arrangements of carols and hymns, along with five original settings. Sir Philip Ledger, the guiding influence behind this service, was Director of Music at King's College from 1974 to 1982, succeeding Sir David Willcocks. During this time he was the principal caretaker of this world-famous Christmas celebration. Along with his own efforts, Ledger called upon four other esteemed British composers for new material: John Sanders, Ian Hare, Francis Jackson, and Philip Moore.

It is understood that the performance of these Christmas 2021 services in Great Torrington and Chittlehampton, sung by The Winkleigh Singers with organist David Read, will be the first of this collection in the South West of England.

The congregation is invited to stand and join in those carols where the words are printed in full in this leaflet, following the rubric (*in italic*) where shown.

The Winkleigh Singers
Musical Director: Roland Smith

Organist: David Read

Monday 20th December 2021
St Michael & All Angels Church, Great Torrington:
Rev. John Carvosso

Saturday 8th January 2022
St Hieritha's Church, Chittlehampton
Rev. David Coleman

Organ
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme Flor Peeters

Carol
Solo

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.

Choir only

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.

All

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.

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.

6 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.

C F Alexander / Irby, H J Gauntlett arr. Philip Ledger

Remain standing

Bidding Prayer

Carol
Good Christian Men Rejoice J M Neale / In Dulci Jubilo, 14th c. German arr. Philip Ledger

First Lesson: Genesis 3: *In the Garden of Eden, God tells Adam that the serpent will be punished.*

Carol
Adam Lay Ybounden Medieval c. 15th century / Philip Ledger

Second Lesson: Genesis 22: *God promises Abraham that his children will be blessed.*

Carol
My Dancing Day Traditional / John Sanders

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: *The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ.*

Carol
What child is this? William Chatterton Dix / Greensleeves arr. Philip Ledger

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: *Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring the world.*

Carol
Choir
God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
All
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

All high voices
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:
All
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir
The shepherds at those tidings rejoicéd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blesséd babe to find:
All
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

All low voices
But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:
All
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir
Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
All
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

English traditional carol arr. Philip Ledger

Fifth Lesson: St. Luke 1: *The Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary*

Carol
Gabriel's Message Sabine Baring Gould / Old Basque Noel arr. Philip Ledger

Sixth Lesson: St. Luke 2: *The birth of Jesus is described by St. Luke*

Carol
Joy to the World! Isaac Watts / Ian Hare

Carol / Hymn *(all)*

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Saviour of the world is here.

2 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes,
To whom the King of glory comes!

3 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
To make a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heavn's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

4 Come now my Saviour, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.

George Weissel, tr. Catherine Winkworth /
Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 arr. Philip Ledger

Seventh Lesson: St. Luke 2: *The shepherds journey to the manger.*

Carol
Jesu, Child of Mary Francis Jackson and Philip Ledger / Philip Ledger

Carol

All high voices

1 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:

All

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Choir only

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

All

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

All low voices

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

All

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Choir only

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:

All

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

James Montgomery / French folk tune arr. Philip Ledger

Eighth Lesson: St. Matthew 2: *Three wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.*

Carol
Watts' Cradle Song Isaac Watts / Philip Moore

All stand
Ninth Lesson: St. John 1: *St. John unfolds the mystery of Christ's birth.*

Carol

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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune attributed to John F. Wade / Adeste fiideles arr. Philip Ledger

Collect for Christmas Day

Carol

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 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.

3 Hail, the Heav'n-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.

Charles Wesley / Mendelssohn arr. Philip Ledger

Organ

Il est ne, le devin Enfant Denis Bedard



COME AND SING!
FAVOURITE CHORAL CLASSICS

to include

Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach *Cantata no. 147*)
Gratias agimus tibi (Bach *Mass in B minor*)
How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms *A German Requiem*)
See, the conqu'ring hero comes (Handel *Judas Maccabaeues*)
Zadok the priest (Handel *Coronation Anthems*)
The heavens are telling the glory of God (Haydn *Creation*)
Lacrimosa (Mozart *Requiem*)
I was glad (Parry)

Sunday 23rd January 2022, 2:30pm–5:30pm
New Assembly Room, South Molton

£5.00 cash or contactless (preferred) at the door

Booking essential so we can ensure the safety and comfort of participants and availability of music scores.

www.winkleighsingers.org.uk

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