

Christ Church  North Adelaide



**A FESTIVAL
OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

Sunday 17 December 2017
7.00pm

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the hymn begins

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Solo Voice:

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:

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.

All:

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.

All:

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.

All:

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.

Music: IRBY Melody Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876), harmonised Arthur H. Mann (1850-1929),
last verse David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this coming Christmas-tide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: 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.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Church glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this Church and City of Adelaide:

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all 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 rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

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.

All sit

Choir: My Lord has come

Words and Music: *Will Todd (b.1970)*

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3, vv 8-15, 17-19

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

Choir: E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Music: *Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

Words: *Ruth Manz (1919-2008)*, after Revelation 22

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22, vv 15-18

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

All stand

CAROL

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Music: ANTIOCH *George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)*
Words: *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

All sit

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9, vv 2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

Choir: Sussex Carol

Music: English traditional carol, arr. *David Willcocks (1919-2015)*
Words: English traditional carol, as collected by *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11, vv 1-3a, 4a, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

All stand

CAROL

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
when he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:

Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Music: PERSONET HODIE Melody from *Piæ Cantiones*, 1582.
Harmonised by the editors of the *New English Hymnal*, 1986
Words: F. Pratt Green (1903-2000)

All sit

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1, vv 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir: There is no rose

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res Miranda. [A wonderful thing.]

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pari forma. [Of the same form.]

The angels sungen, the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo: [Glory to God on high:]
Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice]

Now leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. [Let us go.]

Music: *Gerald Near (b.1942)*
Words: Anonymous medieval carol

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2, vv 1, 3-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

All stand

CAROL

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.

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.

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.

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.

Music: FOREST GREEN *English traditional*,
harm. *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*
Descant: *Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*
Words: *Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

All sit

THE SEVENTH LESSON
Luke 2, vv 8-16
The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

“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.”

Music: WINCHESTER OLD, *from Thomas Este's Psalter 1592*
Words: *Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

All sit

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2, vv 1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Choir: Here is the little door

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, O lift!
We need not wander more but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold,
Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about his head;
All for the Child that stirs not in his sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;
See how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for his children, terrible and sweet,
Touched by such tiny hands and O such tiny feet.

Music: *Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*
Words: *Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)*

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1, vv 1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

All stand

CAROL

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!*

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Music: ADESTE FIDELES Melody probably by
John F. Ward (1711-1786)

Words: 18th century Latin, trans. *Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)*
and others

All sit

COLLECT AND BLESSING

The Priest

The Lord be with you.

All

And with thy spirit.

The Priest

Let us pray.

O God, who makes 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 Ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen.

The Priest

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

All stand

CAROL

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.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

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.*

Music: MENDELSSOHN *Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) arr. David Willcocks*
Text: *Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

Remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart in procession.

Postlude: Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm' ich her *Johann Pachelbel*

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