



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
IN
THE CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

**S. THOMAS' COLLEGE
MOUNT LAVINIA**

01st December 2024

A Brief History of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held in the Chapel of the Transfiguration.

Most people associated with S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia know that the School was founded in 1851 by James Chapman, 1st Anglican Bishop of Colombo on the model of Eton College, Windsor, where he himself had been a student and later a Fellow. However, it may not be common knowledge that links also exist between S. Thomas' and King's College, Cambridge where Bishop Chapman had been a King's Scholar. It was from King's, much later on, that Roy Henry Bowyer-Yin came to us as our Chaplain bringing with him the order for this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

After his training for the priesthood at Cuddesdon, Roy Bowyer-Yin returned to King's to serve as Assistant Chaplain. From there he went on to be Chaplain of Hurstpierpoint School and then came to S. Thomas' on the invitation of Bishop Cecil D. Horsley, and took up duties on Boxing Day 1946. Father Yin was keen to develop the choral tradition in the Chapel of the Transfiguration that had been so ably maintained by Fr. T. W. Gilbert, R. B. W. Jayasekera, Fr A. J. Foster and Budd Jansze among others. By far Father Yin's most enduring legacy at STC has been the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that he introduced and was held for the first time on 7th December 1947, based entirely on the King's College model. The Bidding Prayer used then and today is that which was composed by Dean Eric Milner-White the originator of the King's service in 1918, a prayer rich in theology and English prose. Father Yin in his Chapel Notes published in the College Magazine for that term writes, "It is good to record that there was a real atmosphere of devotion and at no time was there any feeling that the service was degenerating into a concert or recital, which is the ever-present danger of such a service."

In 1962, the year of Father Yin's departure from STC, one of his pupils Russel Bartholomeusz, who was destined to carry on his master's work, joined the tutorial staff. Mr. Bartholomeusz took over as organist in that year and later became the Choirmaster as well. For over forty years he proved to be a most worthy successor to his mentor. Between Father Yin leaving and Mr. Bartholomeusz taking over, the training of the choir was under the direction of an equally gifted choral musician Fr Lucian G. B. Fernando. Warden Neville de Alwis recognised the yeoman service of Mr Bartholomeusz by appointing him Precentor of the Chapel in 1997.

In 2004, on Mr. Bartholomeusz's retirement, one of his pupils and a past leader of the choir, Vinodh Senadeera took up the mantle of the Choirmaster cum Organist (appointed as the Precentor of the Chapel in 2019) continuing the tradition of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for many years until his most untimely demise in January 2019.

In its 78th year this year, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols continues to serve the Mission of God as a means of reaching out with the timeless message of hope that the Incarnation offers in the context of the best tradition of Anglican liturgical worship. May it continue to serve this function for many years to come.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL *The congregation shall stand when the Cross appears at the West Door*

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Choir only

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.

Words : Mrs. C.F. Alexander (1818 - 95)

Music : H.J. Gauntlett (1805 - 76) &

A.H. Mann (1850 - 1929)

Descant : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

Choir only

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

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.

Congregation

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

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

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;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

BIDDING PRAYER

BELOVED in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves 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 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 Chapel 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 this our land. We give thanks for our Founder and our benefactors, and we pray also for all those near and dear to us.

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 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 the 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.

The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

OUT OF YOUR SLEEP

OUT of your sleep arise and wake,
For God mankind now hath y take.
All of a maid without any make;
Of all women she beareth the bell.

And through a maid-e fair and wise,
Now man is made of full great price;
Now angels knelen to man's service,
And at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun;
Now man in heav'n on high shall won;
Blessed be God this game is begun
And his mother the empress of helle *

That ever was thrall now is he free;
That ever was small now great is she;
Now shall God deem both thee and me
Unto his bliss if we do well.

Now man he may to heaven wend;
Now heav'n and earth to him they bend,
He that was foe now is our friend
This is no nay that I you tell.

Now blessed brother grant us grace,
As doomés day to see thy face,
And in thy court to have a place,
That we may sing thee nowell.

That we may sing nowell, nowell,
Out of your sleep, arise and wake.

* *Corruption of hele, meaning spiritual health*

Words : 15th Century
Music : Robin Nelson (b 1943)

FIRST LESSON

Reader: A MEMBER OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Genesis III 8–15

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

THE HOLY SON

THE holy Son of God most high,
For love of Adam's lapsed race.
Quit the sweet pleasures of the sky
To bring us to that happy place.

His robes of light he laid aside.
Which did his majesty adorn.
And the frail state of mortals tried.
In human flesh and figure born.

Whole choirs of angels loudly sing
The mystery of his sacred birth,
And the blest news to shepherds bring,
Filling their watchful souls with mirth.

The Son of God thus man became,
That men the sons of God might be,
And by their second birth regain
A likeness to his deity.

Words : Henry More (1614 - 87)

Music : Peter Hurford (1930 - 2019)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL - *Sung by all, standing*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

All **O COME**, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

All *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lower voices O come, thou Branch of Jesse, draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

Upper voices O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of thy tomb.

Congregation O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

All O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law

Words : 18th Century

Translated : T.A. Lacey (1853 - 1931)

Melody : 15th century French melody

Adapted & arranged : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

SECOND LESSON

Reader: A MEMBER OF THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

Genesis XXII 15 – 18

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 - *Sung by the choir alone; the congregation will be seated*

இல்லாரில் இறைவன்

இல்லாரில் இறைவன் இருக்கின்றார்
நல்லாரின் இதயம் இதையறியும்
சொல்லாமல் வாழ்வில் வருகின்றார்
தள்ளாமல் அவரை அணைத்திடுங்கள்

மாளிகையில் அவர் இல்லை
குடிசையில் அவரை கண்டிடுங்கள்
ஏழையிலே பிறந்திருக்கும்
இல்லாரின் தெய்வத்தை தொடர்ந்திடுங்கள்

இருப்போரும், இல்லாரும்
வாழ்வில் பேதம் தானெதற்கு
மண்மீதில் விண்ணரசை
அமைத்திட வேண்டும் உழைத்திடுங்கள்

GOD LIVES IN THE POOR

*God lives in the poor
Good hearts recognise Him;
He comes unannounced,
Embrace Him without rejecting Him.*

*He is not in the palace;
Find Him in the lowly hut.
Follow him the God of the poor;
Who is born in the midst of them.*

*Why the chasm of the haves and
The have nots in this world;
Come, work to build the
Heavenly kingdom on this earth*

Words & Music : The Rev'd Canon Joshua Ratnam (b. 1952)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL - *Sung by all, standing*

UNTO US IS BORN A SON

All **UNTO** us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Choir only Christ from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be-cradled in the manger.

Lower voices This did Herod sore afray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Upper voices Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory.

All O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

Translated : G.R. Woodward (1848 - 1934)

Melody : Piae Cantiones, 1582

Arranged : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

THIRD LESSON

Reader: PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

Isaiah IX 2, 6, 7

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 judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL - *Sung by the choir alone; the congregation will be seated*

A SPOTLESS ROSE

A SPOTLESS Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' fore-showing,
Of Jesse promis'd fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Words : 14th Century

Music : Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

FOURTH LESSON

Reader: THE SENIOR SACRISTAN

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

Isaiah XI 1 – 4 & 6 – 9

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God

ALL THE STARS LOOKED DOWN

THE Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flow'rs looked up at him,
And all the stars looked down.

Words : G.K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

Arranged : Sir John Rutter (b.1945)

FIFTH LESSON

Reader: A SENIOR SCHOOL PREFECT

The Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Luke I 26–33, 38

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 forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 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 - *Sung by the choir alone; the congregation will be seated*

BOGORÓDITSE DJÉVO

Bogoróditse Djyévo, rádujssja,
Blagodátnaja Maríye, Gosspód ss Tobóju:
Blagosslovjéna Ty v zhenákh,
i blagosslovyén plod chrjéva Tvojegó,
jáko Sspássa rodilá jee ssí dush náshikh.

*Rejoice, O virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Music: Arvo Pärt (b 1935)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL - *Sung by all, standing*

I SAW THREE SHIPS

All **I SAW** three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Congregation And what was in those ships all three?

Choir only Our Saviour Christ and his lady,

Congregation Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?

Choir only O, they sailed into Bethlehem,

All And all the bells on earth shall ring.

All And all the angels in heav'n shall sing.

All And all the souls on earth shall sing.

All Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Words : English Traditional carol
Arranged : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

SIXTH LESSON

Reader: A MEMBER OF THE STAFF

St Matthew tells of Christ's Holy Birth

St Matthew I 18–23

NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL - *Sung by the choir alone; the congregation will be seated*

දෙයියි දෙයියි දෙයියි!

දෙයියි දෙයියි දෙයියි! දෙයියි පුතේ,
විමුක්තියේ පුතු නුඹයි පුතේ.
බයි බයි බයි! බයි පුතේ,
සාමයේ කුමරුන් නුඹයි පුතේ.

පුතු බිච් මච් කිර් මතු දවසේ,
ලෙයට හැරේ ලොව පවිත් මිදේ.
දෙව් පුතු නුඹමයි ලොව මුදනා
රජුන්ගෙ රජතුම නුඹයි පුතේ.

පිදුරු යහනේ පුතු නිදියන්නේ
දෙව් මච් තුරුලේ පුතු නැලවෙන්නේ

SLEEP MY DEAR ONE

*Sleep my dear one.
You, are the son of liberation
Sleep my dear one.
You are the prince of peace.*

*The milk that you drink, will one day
Turn to the blood that saves the world from sin.
You are the Son of God who redeems the world.
You are the King of Kings*

*You sleep in a manger made of hay
Lulling in your mothers bosom.*

*Words : The Rev'd Amal Fernando (b.1953)
Music : Suraj Peiris (b.1973)*

SEVENTH LESSON

Reader: AN OLD BOY

The Shepherds go to the manger

St Luke II 8–16

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.

BETHLEHEM DOWN

“**WHEN** He is King we will bring Him the King’s gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music,
Songs of the shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe him in grave sheets
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Poem : Bruce Blunt (1899 - 1957)
Music : Peter Warlock (1894 - 1930)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL - *Sung by all, standing*

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

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

Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

Choir only From God our heav'nly 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:

Congregation The Shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straight'way
This blessed Babe to find:

Choir only 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 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 other doth deface:

EIGHTH LESSON

Reader: THE WARDEN

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus

St. Matthew II 1 – 11

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea 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 Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Judea: 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 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.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL - *Sung by the choir alone; the congregation will be seated*

SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL

This carol has been sung at our Carol Service in recent years as a blessing on a Warden at the end of his tenure.

The Rev'd Marc Billimoria, having served 10 years as the 19th Warden of the College, lays down his charge at the end of this year.

Fr. Marc, may "God go with you, God protect you, Guide you safely through the wild!"

THOU must leave thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother,
Shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
Ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

(Chorus from "L'Enfance du Christ." Op. 25)

Words : Paul England (1903)

Music : Hector Berlioz (1803 - 1869)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *Sung by all, standing*

** During the singing of this Carol and the next, a collection will be taken.*

THE FIRST NOWELL

All **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:
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

All 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:

Choir only 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 wherever it went:

Congregation 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;

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

All Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
And with His Blood mankind has bought:

Words and Music : Traditional 17th Century English Carol

NINTH LESSON

Reader: THE LORD BISHOP OF COLOMBO

**The Congregation shall stand for this Lesson*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

St John I 1 – 14

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 anything 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: which 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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 newborn 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.

Words : C. Wesley (1707 - 88) and others

Music : F. Mendelssohn (1809 - 47)

Last verse : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

COLLECT FOR ADVENT

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him and 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 the Holy Spirit; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered in to 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. **Amen.**

ADESTE FIDELES

All **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:

Refrain *O come, let us adore him,*
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Choir only Child for us sinners
Poor and in a manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?

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

Words : 18th cent.
Translation : F. Oakley, W. T. Brooke, and others
Music : Anon. 18th Cent.
Last Verse : Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)