

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

6.30 p.m. 19th December 2021

Carol Sheet 3 - Once in royal David's city (first two verses, choir only)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

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 this town of Bromley and diocese of Rochester.

And because this of all things 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 rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven.

Amen.

1st Lesson - Genesis 3.8-15, The Fall

Choir item - "Adam lay y'bounden" by Basil Ord

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| 1. Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long. | 3. Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
A-been heavené queen. |
| 2. And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden written
In their book. | 4. Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, Deo gratias! |

2nd Lesson - Genesis 22.15-18, The promise to Abraham

Carol Sheet 2 - It came upon the midnight clear

3rd Lesson - Isaiah 9.2,6-7, The prophecy of the Saviour's birth

Choir item - "The Angel Gabriel", Basque carol paraphrased and arranged by S Baring-Gould

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail," said he, thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
2. "For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy
Name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say:
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

4th Lesson Isaiah 11.1-9, The Peaceful Kingdom

Carol Sheet 5 - Oh little town of Bethlehem

5th Lesson - Luke 1.26-38, The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Choir item - "The Coventry Carol", traditional

1. Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
2. O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay?"
3. Herod the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay.
4. That woe is me, poor child, for thee
And ever mourn and may
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
"Bye bye, lully, lullay."

6th Lesson - Luke 2.1-7, The birth of Jesus

Intercessions

After each prayer the sung response is:

**Hail, thou ever-blessed morn
Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

We conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Carol Sheet 6 - The First Nowell

7th Lesson - Luke 2.8-16, The shepherds go to the manger

Choir item - "Nativity Carol" by Rutter

1. Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago
Born 'neath light of star, He who loved us so
2. Far away, silent lay, Born today, your homage pay
Christ is born for Aye, born on Christmas Day
3. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby
Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky
4. Far away, silent lay, Born today, your homage pay
Christ is born for Aye, born on Christmas Day
5. Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills
6. Far away, silent lay, Born today, your homage pay
Christ is born for Aye, born on Christmas Day
7. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, Make me thy love to know.
8. Far away, silent lay, Born today, your homage pay
Christ is born for Aye, born on Christmas Day

8th Lesson - Matthew 2.1-11, The Wise Men are led by a star to Jesus

Address

9th Lesson John 1.1-14 – The Incarnation (congregation stands)

Choir item - "Torches" by John Joubert

1. Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!
2. Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!
3. Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling
While we sing you our Roro
4. Sing, my friends, and make you merry
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and evermore. Amen
5. Lo, He lives, the King of heaven
Now and ever, evermore. Amen

Carol Sheet 15 - Hark! the herald angels sing

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4.00 p.m. Crib Service
*children of all ages make
a nativity scene*
- 11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas
(carols from 11.00 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
using the Book of Common Prayer
- 11.00 a.m. Family Service
a celebration on the day itself