

# **A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

*6.30 p.m. 18th December 2022*

## ***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 ybounden”***

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

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

#### ***Carol Sheet 5 – O little town of Bethlehem***

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

***Choir item – “Gabriel's Message”, Basque carol paraphrased and arranged by S Baring-Gould***

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

***4th Lesson Isaiah 11.1-9, The peaceful kingdom***

***Carol Sheet 2 – It came upon a midnight clear***

***5th Lesson – Luke 1.26-38, The birth of Jesus foretold***

***Choir item – “How sweet is love”, Paget***

A Child is born in Bethlehem; awaiteth Him all Jerusalem.  
Amor, amor, quam dulcis est amor. (Love, Love, how sweet is love.)  
Amor, amor, quam dulcis est amor.  
Amor, amor, Quam dulcis est amor (Love, Love, how sweet is love.)  
The angels above were singing then; below were rejoicing the shepherd men.  
Amor, amor, Quam dulcis est amor (Love, Love, how sweet is love.)  
Now let us all with the angels sing; Yea, now let our hearts for gladness spring.  
Amor, amor, Quam dulcis est amor (Love, Love, how sweet is love.)

***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 10 – While shepherds watched**

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

**Choir item – “Myn Lyking”, R.R Terry**

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing.

She lulled a lyttel childe,

A sweete Lording

*Lullay myn lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting.*

*Lullay my dere herte, myn own dere derling.*

That same Lord is he that made alle thing;

Of alle lord-is he is Lord

Of alle kynges Kyng

*Refrain*

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth.

All that were in heav'nly bliss,

They made mickle mirth.

*Refrain*

Angels bright sang their song to that chyld:

Blyssid be thou, and so be she,

So meek and so mild.

*Refrain*

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

**Choir item – “Bethlehem Down” by Peter Warlock**

“When He is King we will give 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 a 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.

**Address – The patience of God**

**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  
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