



The Cathedral Church of the
Holy and Undivided Trinity, Bristol

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 23 December 2019, 6.00pm
Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December 2019, 3.30pm

sung by the Great Choir of Bristol Cathedral

Director

Mark Lee
Master of the Choristers & Organist

Organist

Paul Walton
Assistant Organist

Introduction

The Chapter of Bristol Cathedral welcomes you to this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. In this service we hear the story of God's promise of salvation and the fulfilment of that promise in the incarnation: the birth of the Christ-child at Christmas. The structure of the service was first drawn up by the Bishop of Truro for use in his cathedral in 1880, but then it was famously adapted in 1918 by Dean Eric Milner-White for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. It was first broadcast in 1928 from that chapel and has since become a deservedly well-known and much-loved service.

Christianity does not just present us with a good idea or a set of rules. Christianity sets God before us, in the one form we best know, and best understand: Jesus the human child, *Emmanuel*, 'God with us'. In this service we hear how that truth comes as the climax to the long story of salvation recorded in scripture. This story is about each one of us, and we are particularly delighted that our readers represent the Cathedral's diverse links with both the city and the Diocese of Bristol. We are honoured to be joined by many distinguished guests, including the Lord-Lieutenancy, the High Sheriff, and the Lord Mayor.

We pray that the new life made manifest in the birth of the Christ-child may be yours this Christmastide.

Organ Music before the Service

Canonic Variations on 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich' her'
(BWV 769)

J. S. Bach 1685-1750

March on a theme of Handel
(Op.15, No.2)

Alexandre Guilmant 1837-1911

Order of Service

The procession moves to the South Quire Aisle.

Welcome

The Acting Dean of Bristol

PLEASE STAND

Processional Carol

Tune: Irby

During this carol the procession moves to the Quire.

Solo 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 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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: H. J. Gauntlett 1805-76
Words: C. F. Alexander 1818-95*

Bidding Prayer

Lord's Prayer

All

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

PLEASE SIT

Anthem

Nowell, sing we

Matthew Martin b.1976

Cathedral Choir

Nowell sing we, both all and some now *Rex pacificus* is come.
Exortum est in love and lysse. Now Christ his grace he gan us gysse,
and with his body us bought to bliss, both all and some.
De fructu ventris of Mary bright, both God and man in her alight,
out of disease he did us dight, both all and some.
Puer natus to us was sent, to bliss us bought, fro bale us blent,
and else to woe we had ywent, both all and some.
Lux fulgebit with love and light, in Mary mild his pennon pight,
in her took kind with manly might, both all and some.
Gloria tibi ay and bliss, God unto his grace he us wysse,
the rent of heaven that we not miss, both all and some.

Anon.

Lesson I

Genesis 3.8-15

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

Read on the 23rd by a Boy Chorister

Read on the 24th by a Girl Chorister

PLEASE STAND

Carol

Tune: Noel

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Words: Edmund H. Sears 1810-76

Music: Traditional English tune adapted by Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900

PLEASE SIT

Lesson II

Genesis 22.15-18

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

Read on the 23rd
by Susannah Bryan
Daughter of the Archdeacon of Malmesbury

Read on the 24th
by Fiona Foster-Reimer
A Cathedral Server

Anthem

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *Trad. arr. Clifford Harker 1912-99*

Consort

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.

Then I was born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:

Traditional English Carol

Lesson III

Isaiah 9.2,6,7

The birth of Christ and the glory of his kingdom are foretold

Read on both days

by members of the Cathedral Consort, the Cathedral's youth choir

PLEASE STAND

Carol

Tune: Forest Green

**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 wond'ring love.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
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.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks 1835-93

Music: Trad. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

PLEASE SIT

Lesson IV

Micah 5.2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem

Read on the 23rd
by Andy Marshall
Senior Lay Clerk

Read on the 24th
by Mark Lee
Master of the Choristers & Organist

Anthem

Lully, lulla

Kenneth Leighton 1929-88

Consort

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay,
thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor youngling, for whom we sing,

By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight,

all children young to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting nor say nor sing,

By by, lully lullay!

*from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors,
Coventry, 15th century*

Lesson V

Luke 1.26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Read on the 23rd

by Elizabeth Cairncross

A member of the Cathedral Homeless Outreach Team

Read on the 24th

by Oliver Home

Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Bristol

Anthem

Mary's Lullaby

John Rutter b.1945

Cathedral Choir See the child that Mary bore,
on her lap so softly sleeping
in a stable cold and poor
ox and ass their vigil keeping.

Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
my own dear son, my child.
Lullaby, sing lullaby,
lullaby, my little baby.

Flights of angels round his head
sing him joyful hymns of greeting:
Peace on earth, goodwill to men
each to each the song repeating.

Shepherds kneeling by his bed
offer homage without measure.
Wise men, by a bright star led
bring him gifts of richest treasure.

Lesson VI

Matthew 1.18-23

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Read on the 23rd

by Claire Eade

Administrator, Ministry Development, Diocese of Bristol

Read on the 24th

by Francis Greenacre

Former Curator, Bristol Museum

PLEASE STAND

Carol

Tune: Winchester Old

**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.'**

Words: Nahum Tate 1652-1715

Music: First published in Thomas Este's Psalter 1592

PLEASE SIT

Lesson VII

Luke 2.8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

*Read on the 23rd
by Charles Wyld
High Sheriff of Bristol*

*Read on the 24th
by Jos Clark
Lord Mayor of Bristol*

Anthem

Quem vidistis

Francis Poulenc 1899-1963

Cathedral Choir Quem vidistis, pastores? Dicite, Whom did you see, shepherds, say? tell us,
annuntiate nobis, in terris quis apparuit? who has appeared on earth?
Natum vidimus et choro angelorum the new-born we saw and choirs of angels
collaudantes Dominum. praising the Lord, alleluia!

Dicite quidnam vidistis?

Say, what did you see?

Et annuntiate Christi nativatum.

And tell us of Christ's nativity.

Third Responsory at Matins for Christmas Day

Lesson VIII

Matthew 2.1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Read on the 23rd
by Peaches Golding
Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol

Read on the 24th
by Tim Chambers
Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol

Anthem

Sir Christèmas

Trad. arr. William Mathias 1934-92

Great Choir Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 'Who is there that singeth so?'
 'I am here, Sir Christèmas.'
 'Welcome, my lord Christèmas,
 Welcome to us all, both more and less
 Come near, Nowell!'

attr. Richard Smart

PLEASE STAND

The organist plays a fanfare.

Lesson IX

John 1.1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

*Read on both days
by a Deacon*

All *When it is announced*
Glory to you, O Lord.

All *At the end*
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Carol

Tune: Adeste Fideles

During this carol the clergy process to the High Altar, and there is a collection for the work of Bristol Cathedral.

Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if appropriate.

**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:**

Chorus

**See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:**

Chorus

**Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ Child
bring our hearts' oblations:**

Chorus

**Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?**

Chorus

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God
in the highest:**

Chorus

*Words: 18th Century, translated by F. Oakley and others
Music: Melody probably by J. F. Wade 1711-86*

Collect

Almighty God, who makest us glad
with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

All

Blessing

Bishop
All

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

All

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

May the humility of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the joy of the angels,
and the peace of the Christ Child,
be God's gift to us and to all people,
this Christmas and always.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the ✠ Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All

Final Carol

Tune: Mendelssohn

**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.***

*Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47*

Organ Voluntary

Toccata-Prelude 'Vom Himmel hoch'

Garth Edmundson 1892-1971

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING WHILE THE PROCESSION LEAVES

The Acting Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral
wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a peaceful and joyful New Year!

Christmas at Bristol Cathedral

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00pm

Eucharist of Christmas Night

sung by the Cathedral Chamber Choir

Preacher: The Acting Dean of Bristol

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am

Holy Communion BCP

10.00am

Festival Eucharist

sung by the Cathedral Choir

Preacher: The Bishop of Bristol

Sunday 6 January

10.00am

Epiphany Eucharist

sung by the Melgás Consort