



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve | “Lessons and Carols”

The service of “Lessons and Carols” was created and performed in 1880 by Edward Benson, who was the then newly appointed Bishop of Truro (in Cornwall in the UK). It was later made famous by the choir from King’s College, Cambridge, where the choir first performed it in 1918 as a way of celebrating the end of the First World War. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI, wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. In 1919 he changed the opening hymn/carol to be “Once in Royal David’s City” and set the main order and structure of the lessons and carols as it still is today. The service of Lessons and Carols consists of nine Bible readings (or lessons), that tell the Christmas story from the Fall of humanity to the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Order of Worship and Lyrics

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Advent Carol: Once in Royal David’s City

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.

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.

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.

Call To Worship:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in our hearts and minds 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.

FIRST LESSON: God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the

serpent's head. Genesis 3:8-15

Carol: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Second Lesson: God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.
Genesis 22:15-18

Carol: Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind,
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Third Lesson: The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown in the words of the prophet. Isaiah 11:1-9

CAROL

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

James Desta, Soloist

Lydia Gregory, Violinist

Fourth Lesson: The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. Micah 5:2-4

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep

Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

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.

Fifth Lesson: The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary. Luke 1:26-38

CAROL **“Good Christian Men Rejoice”**

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!

Man and beast before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now:

Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door,
And man is blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!

Call you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Sixth Lesson: Matthew tells how the birth of Jesus took place. Matthew 1:18-23

CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King."

Seventh Lesson: The shepherds are visited by the
Angels and go to the manger. Luke 2:8-16

CAROL

"Away in the Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus-- no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Eighth Lesson: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL **“We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

We three kings of Orient are:
Bearing gifts we traverse afar –
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading,
Still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heaven replies.

Ninth Lesson: John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation. John 1:1-14

Carol **“Joy to the World”**

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 earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Message: “Life in Christ” Randy Jenkins

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Candle Lighting

