

ST. GEORGE'S EAST IVANHOE



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, 23 December, 2018 at 9.00 pm

MUSICIANS

We thank our musicians for their assistance with the music this evening; Director of Music, Roger Brown, organist, Cyril Thomas and the choir of St George's East Ivanhoe.

THE LITURGY

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format of Christian worship service celebrating the birth of Jesus and traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of man, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for Christmas Eve 1880 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall. It has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

The most famous version is broadcast annually from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve. Our service this evening is adapted from the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* first held at King's College on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's, after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn *Once in Royal David's City* and ended with *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

THE IKON

The ikon on the cover is 'Mary and Jesus,' the work of Fr. Kallinikos at the Stavrovouni Monastery, Holy Cross Mountain in Cyprus.

COLLECTION

A collection to support the ministry of St. George's will be taken up during the singing of *O come all ye faithful*.

Processional Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

Choir

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.

Choir and Congregation

**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 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;
when, like stars, his children, crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

All remain standing.

Welcome to St. George's East Ivanhoe: Fr. John Sanderson

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Fr John. Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 church, 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 let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

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 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 we are confident to pray,

**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 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.**

Fr John: 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.

All: **Amen.**

The congregation sits

CAROL: Up! Good Christen folks and listen – G.R. Woodward

FIRST LESSON

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it," cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Thanks be to God

CAROLS

Adam lay ybounden – Peter Warlock

King Jesus hath a garden – arr Charles Wood

SECOND LESSON

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Thanks be to God

CAROL

In dulci jubilo – arr Robert Pearsall

THIRD LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

The three drovers – William G. James

FOURTH LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem

All stand

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above them deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by,
yet in thy dark street 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,
whilst mortals sleep, the Angels keep
their watch of wondr'ing love,**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
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.**

All sit

CAROL

Mary's Magnificat - Carter

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come

upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

Gabriel's message – Trad

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Silent Night

All Stand

**Silent night, Holy night:
All is calm, All is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace,**

**Silent night, Holy night:
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night, Holy night:
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

All sit

SIXTH LESSON

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

O little one sweet,
O little one mild,
thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken
equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet,
O little one mild.

O little one sweet,
O little one mild,
with joy thou hast the whole world filled;
thou camest here from heaven's domain
to bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet,
O little one mild.

O little one sweet,
O little one mild,
in thee love's beauties are all distilled;
then light in us thy love's bright flame,
that we may give thee back the same,
O little one sweet,
O little one mild.

O little one sweet,
O little one mild,
help us to do as thou hast willed.
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!
Ah, keep us in our fealty!
O little one sweet,
O little one mild.

CAROL

SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of

O Jesulein süss – J.S. Bach

Hush my dear – Archer

cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

Ding Dong! Merrily on High – arr Charles Wood

O magnum mysterium – Tomas Luis de Victoria

O great mystery

and wonderful sacrament,

*that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!*

*O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.*

Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.

*Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.*

Alleluia!

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

All Stand

**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 Savior, 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 on high,
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!"**

EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah* was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd* my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

Lullay, mine liking – Gustav Holst

NINTH LESSON

Reader: Fr. John Sanderson

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him

was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: O come, all ye faithful

All Stand

**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.*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;**

Refrain

All remain standing

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

Fr John: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Fr John: Let us pray.

O 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 for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

Fr John: Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: 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!"**

Refrain

***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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.**

Refrain

**Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**

**Light and life to all He brings,
ris'n 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.**

Refrain

All remain standing while the procession leaves during the organ voluntary.

Fanfare – Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday 24 December - Christmas Eve

5.00 pm *Children's Carol Service.*

11.30 pm *Midnight Mass.*

Tuesday 25 December - Christmas Day – The Birth of our Lord

9.00 am *Sung Eucharist.*

Wednesday 26 December Boxing Day – Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

10.00 am *Eucharist.*

Friday 28 December – Holy Innocents

10.00 am *The View's at Heidelberg: Holy Communion.*

Sunday 30 December – First Sunday After Christmas

8.00am *Eucharist*

10.00 am *Sung Eucharist*

MUSIC

If ye would hear the angels sing	Dutch Trad.
Up! Good Christen folks and listen	G.R. Woodward
Adam lay ybounden	Peter Warlock
King Jesus hath a garden	arr Charles Wood
In Dulci Jubilo	arr Robert Pearsall
The three drovers	William G. James
Mary's Magnificat	Carter
Gabriel's message	Trad
O Jesulein suss	J.S. Bach
Ding Dong! Merrily on High	arr Charles Wood
O magnum mysterium	Tomas Louis de Victoria
Lullay, mine liking	Gustav Holst
Fanfare	Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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