

A FESTIVAL OF NINE  
**Lessons  
& Carols**

**A SERVICE OF NINE  
LESSONS  
AND CAROLS**

**St Nicholas' Church,  
Marston**

*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 6pm*

*The Congregation stands at the entrance of the Minister.*

**Carol:** Once in royal David's city (Carols for Choirs no.31) *verse 1 solo,  
verse 2 choir*

*Melody: HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT  
Harmonised: HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT and ARTHUR HENRY MANN  
Descant: DAVID WILLCOCKS*

**Bidding prayer**

*The Minister says*

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 village of Marston and diocese of Oxford.

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 man 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, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*All* **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 them that 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.**

May 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.**

*Then shall the congregation sit.*

**Choir:** Awake and join the cheerful choir

*TRADITIONAL DORSETSHIRE CAROL*

**First Lesson:** Genesis 3.8-15, 17–19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise  
the serpent's head.*

**Choir:** Ding-dong! Merrily on high

*Music: FRENCH MELODY (16<sup>th</sup> CENTURY)  
Words: G R WOODWARD Arranged: JOHN BARNARD*

**Second Lesson:** Genesis 22.15–18

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

**Carol:** On Christmas night all Christians sing  
(Carol for Choirs booklet no. 35)

*Tune: SUSSEX CAROL*

**Third Lesson:** Isaiah 9.2, 6–7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the saviour.*

**Carol:** Adore

*Words & music: GRAHAM KENDRICK & MARTIN CHALK  
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1. You stepped down from heaven, humbly You came  
God of all creation, here with us  
In a starlit manger Emmanuel  
Light of the world, here to save

*Adore, come let us adore  
Oh come let us adore Him  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord  
Let all that is within us adore*

2. Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low  
Angel voices sing of peace on earth  
What have I to offer to heaven's King  
I will bring my life, my love, my all

*Adore, come let us adore ...*

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening  
At your feet we fall  
Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening  
At your feet we fall

*Adore, come let us adore ...*

**Fourth Lesson:** Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9  
*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

**Choir:** The Holly and the Ivy

*Music: JOHN GARDNER  
Words: TRADITIONAL*

**Fifth Lesson:** Luke 1.26–35, 38  
*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

**Carol:** This Child

*Words & music: GRAHAM KENDRICK  
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This child secretly comes in the night  
Oh this Child, hiding a heavenly light  
Oh this Child, coming to us like a stranger  
This heavenly Child

*This Child, heaven come down now  
To be with us here  
Heavenly love and mercy appear  
Softly in awe and wonder come near  
Oh this heavenly Child*

This Child, rising on us like the sun  
Oh this child, given to light everyone  
Oh this Child, guiding our feet on the pathway  
To peace on earth  
*This Child ...*

This Child, raising the humble and poor  
Oh this Child, making the proud ones to fall  
This Child, filling the hungry with good things  
This heavenly Child  
*This Child ...  
This Child ...*

**Sixth Lesson:** Luke 2.1, 3–7  
*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**Choir:** No frightened shepherds now

*Music: DAVID ILIFF  
Words: PAUL WIGMORE*

**Carol:** O little town of Bethlehem (Carol for Choirs booklet no. 29)

*Music: ENGLISH TRADITIONAL MELODY  
Arranged by RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Descant: THOMAS ARMSTRONG  
Words: PHILLIPS BROOKS*

**Seventh Lesson:** Luke 2.8–16  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**Choir:** Child in a manger

*Music: NEIL BARKER  
Words: MARY MCDONALD Translated by LACHLAN MACBEAN*

**Eighth Lesson:** Matthew 2.1–11  
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

**Choir:** Lully, Lulla, Lullay

*Music: PHILIP WJ STOPPFORD  
Words: TRADITIONAL CAROL*

*The congregation shall stand for the ninth lesson.*

**Ninth Lesson:** John 1.1–14

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

## **Christmas Reflection**

**Carol:** O come, all ye faithful (Carol for Choirs booklet no. 28)

– v1, 2, 3 & 6 only

*Music: ADESTE FIDELES  
Melody: JOHN FRANCIS WADE Arranged by DAVID WILLCOCKS  
Words: Translated by FREDERICK OAKLEY*

## **The Collect**

*The Minister says*

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And with thy spirit.**

*Then all shall kneel.*

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.**

## **The Blessing**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

**Carol:** Hark! The herald angels sing (Carol for Choirs booklet no. 15)

*Music: FELIX MENDELSSOHN  
Descant: DAVID WILLCOCKS  
Words: CHARLES WESLEY & OTHERS*

*The congregation remain standing whilst the Minister recesses.*