

A FESTIVAL
OF NINE
LESSONS
& CAROLS

Christmas Eve, 2025
3.00 pm

King's College Chapel
Cambridge

DEAN

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry

DIRECTOR *of* MUSIC

Daniel Hyde

CHAPLAIN

The Revd Dr Jonathan Kimber

CHAPEL MANAGER

Emily Lyons

ASSISTING ORGANIST

Harrison Cole



WELCOME *from the Dean*

THANK YOU for joining us for this great occasion. It is a wonderful act of worship, both for us in Chapel and for the millions joining us by radio around the world. As a courtesy to BBC Radio 4, the service will start a few minutes after 3 pm. It will continue until almost 4.40 pm.

The initials KC in this booklet are used to designate membership of King's College.

The membership of King's College Choir changes every year. If you would like to know more about being a member of the Choir, or to hear about life as a Chorister, Choral Scholar or Organ Scholar, please contact us by email to begin an informal exploration.

choir@kings.cam.ac.uk
kingscollegechoir.com

I hope that you will be able to join us for other choral services in the future. Tomorrow we celebrate Christmas Day itself, with a Eucharist with carols at 11.00 am.

Finally, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry *Dean*

§ *To help all who attend to find this a beautiful and meaningful experience we ask, please, that you:*

- ★ *Ensure your phone is turned off, and that you refrain from photography, videography or any other form of recording;*
- ★ *Follow the invitations to stand or sit as you are able, and that you always feel free to sit, if that is more comfortable for you;*
- ★ *Place your offering, which goes to support the work of the Chapel, in the Gift Aid envelope which you will find in this order of service, adding it to the collection as you leave;*
- ★ *In the event of an evacuation of the Chapel, listen carefully to any announcements and follow the stewards' directions calmly;*
- ★ *Should you feel unwell, alert one of the stewards, who will engage one of the paramedics in attendance;*
- ★ *Wait quietly for the service to start.*

PODCAST – ‘ENCOUNTERS with KING’s CHAPEL’

Uniquely recorded as guests encounter the beauty of King’s College Chapel, this ‘hybrid’ podcast is both conversation and personalised walking tour.

Join the Dean as he invites guests like Sir Simon Jenkins and Sir John Rutter to share their impressions and experiences of our marvellous Chapel.



NEW ALBUM – ‘ALL THE STARS LOOKED DOWN’

The Choir of King’s College, Cambridge, has released a new album for Christmas 2025: *All the Stars Looked Down*. The disc features the Choir with Britten Sinfonia and includes orchestral arrangements and original works by Sir John Rutter alongside a selection of carols by the composers who have influenced him.



ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

§ *Benjamin Sheen, Director of Music, Jesus College, plays:*

Fantasia in G, bwv 572

Johann Sebastian Bach

Bärenreiter Verlag

La Nativité du Seigneur

Olivier Messiaen

ii Les Bergers

Éditions Alphonse Leduc

‘Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern’,

BuxWV 223

Dietrich Buxtehude

Bärenreiter Verlag

Pièces dans différents styles, Op.19

Alexandre Guilmant

ii Offertoire sur Deux Noëls

Oxford University Press

Poèmes Évangéliques, Op.7

Jean Langlais

ii La Nativité

Éditions Combre

§ *All stand for the Præposital Procession.*

Livre de Noëls, Op.2

Louis-Claude Daquin

x Noël, Grand Jeu et duo

Schott Music

§ *All sit as the Assisting Organist plays:*

Cathedral Windows, Op.106

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

iii Resonet in Laudibus

Oxford University Press

Preludes

John Ireland

iii The Holy Boy

Oxford University Press

Choral prelude on ‘Lob sei Gott’

Jeremy Thurlow

Edition Peters

La Nativité du Seigneur

Olivier Messiaen

iii Desseins éternels

Éditions Alphonse Leduc

In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 197

Dietrich Buxtehude

Breitkopf und Härtel

THOSE FEET

ANGEL's feet, doomed never to feel the soil,
silently sustain the grace of greeting,
treading the air without toil.

Mary's feet, in suspended gait,
one heel raised, toes pushed down,
poised, yet planted in given ground,
wait.

He will fly and she will walk
and walk and walk,
kneading body, earth and mind
into a basic trinity
of plodding, falling humankind,
pacing out with even stride – no Jacob, she –
the sand and straw and stone,
the dirt and dung and dust,
of ground made ready now
to take the print of Word made flesh.

Stephen Cherry
from *Barefoot Ways*
SPCK, 2015

ORDER *of* SERVICE

HYMN

§ *The Choir alone sings verses 1–2.*



*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.*

please turn the page quietly

§ *All sing and the Procession moves to the stalls.*

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 heav'n 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.

Cecil Frances Alexander

‘Irby’

*Henry Gauntlett, harm. Arthur Henry Mann KC
verse 6 arr. David Willcocks KC*

BIDDING PRAYER

§ *All remain standing.*

Dean

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas Eve 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 the Babe lying in a manger.

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 Chapel,
dedicated to Mary,
his most blessed Mother,
glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world;
for peace and health over all the earth;
for unity and goodwill within the Church he
came to build,
and especially in the dominions of our
sovereign lord King Charles,
within this University and City of Cambridge,
and in the two royal and religious Foundations of
King Henry VI,
here and at Eton:

please turn the page quietly

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart,
let us at this time remember in his name the
 poor and the helpless,
 the cold and the hungry,
 the abused, the exploited, the hated, and the oppressed;
 the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn;
 the isolated, the lonely and the unloved;
 the elderly and the little children;
 all who know not the Lord Jesus,
 or who love him not,
 or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

And let us hold in our hearts all those who,
even as we are gathered here,
endure the depredations and travails of war,
praying that the story of the Christ-child may draw
 them closer to the nearness of God's love,
and offer new hope in the gospel of peace
 and loving-kindness.

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 this Lord Jesus,
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:

Dean

OUR FATHER

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.**

Dean

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.

§ *All sit.*

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

THE BLESSED son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.

Kyri'eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.

Kyri'eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.

Kyri'eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Miles Coverdale
after *Martin Luther*

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Oxford University Press

FIRST LESSON

§ *A Chorister reads the lesson.*

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

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

please turn the page quietly

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3.8–15, 17–19

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

ADAM lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was;
Therefore we moun singen:
Deo gracias!

Thanks be to God!

15th-century English
modernised, *Edith Rickert*

Boris Ord KC
Novello & Co. Ltd

please turn the page quietly

SECOND LESSON

§ *A student reads the lesson.*

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

AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Genesis 22.15–18

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

*Nowell sing we now all and some,
For Rex pacificus is come.
the king of peace.*

IN BETHLEHEM in that fair city,
A child was born of a maiden free;
That shall a lord and princè be;
A solis ortus cardine. *from the point of sunrise.*
Nowell sing we &c.

Children were slain in full great plenty,
Jesus, for the love of thee;
Wherefore their soulès savèd be;
Hostis Herodis impie. *Herod, ungodly enemy.*
Nowell sing we &c.

As the sunnè shineth through the glass,
So Jesu in his mother was;
Thee to servè now grant us grace;
O lux beata Trinitas. *O Trinity of blessed light.*
Nowell sing we &c.

Now God is comen to worshipen us;
Now of Mary is born Jesus;
Make we merry amongès us;
Exultet cœlum laudibus. *Let the sky exult with praises.*
Nowell sing we &c.

anon., 15th-century English
trans. *Rosanna Omitowoju* KC

Elizabeth Maconchy
Cambridge University Press

please turn the page quietly

THIRD LESSON

§ *A member of College staff reads the lesson.*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9.2, 6—7

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

ON CHRISTMAS night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

English Traditional

English Traditional

Philip Ledger KC
Halston & Co. Ltd.

§ *All stand.*

please turn the page quietly

HYMN



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 heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hast'ning 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.

Edmund Hamilton Sears

‘Noel’

adapt. *Arthur Sullivan*

verse 4 arr. *John Scott*

Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

please turn the page quietly

FOURTH LESSON

§ *A representative of Eton College reads the lesson.*

The Prophet Isaiah foreshows the peace that Christ will bring.

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11.1–4a, 6–9

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

§ *The College commissioned this carol for today's service.*

I LEANT upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
 The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
 Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
 Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
 The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
 The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
 Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
 Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
 The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
 Of joy illimitated;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
 In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
 Upon the growing gloom.

please turn the page quietly

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

‘The Darkling Thrush’

Thomas Hardy

Rachel Portman

CAROL

LITTLE Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is callèd by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child;
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are callèd by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

William Blake

John Tavener

please turn the page quietly

FIFTH LESSON

§ *A Fellow reads the lesson.*

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1.26–35, 38

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus
fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora
mortis nostrae.
Amen.

Luke 1.28, 42

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death.
Amen.*

*Anton Bruckner
Breitkopf & Hartel*

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.*

THERE is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

There is no rose &c.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

A marvellous thing.

There is no rose &c.

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pari forma.

Equal in form.

There is no rose &c.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus.

*Glory to God in the highest:
Let us rejoice.*

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;

Transeamus.

Let us go.

There is no rose &c.

anon., 15th-century

anon., 15th-century

arr. John Stevens

Stainer & Bell

SIXTH LESSON

§ *The Deputy Mayor of Cambridge reads the lesson.*

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2.1–7

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

A boy was born in Bethlehem;
Rejoice for that, Jerusalem!
Alleluya.

He let himself a servant be,
That all mankind he might set free:
Alleluya.

Then praise the Word of God who came
To dwell within a human frame:
Alleluya.

16th-century German
trans. *Percy Dearmer*

Benjamin Britten
Oxford University Press

§ *All stand.*

HYMN



UNTO us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be cradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

please turn the page quietly

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go
Benedicamus Domino.

anon., 14th-century.

With singing in the choir

Let us bless the Lord

from *Piae Cantiones*

arr. *David Willcocks* KC

Oxford University Press

§ *All sit.*

SEVENTH LESSON

§ *The Director of Music reads the lesson.*

The shepherds go to the manger.

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2.8–16

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

BORN in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

*Far away silent He lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.*

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away &c.

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Far away &c.

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.

Far away &c.

John Rutter

John Rutter

Oxford University Press

CAROL

THOU must leave thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother,
Shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
Ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

Paul England

from *L'Enfance du Christ*, Op.25

Hector Berlioz

Oxford University Press

please turn the page quietly

EIGHTH LESSON

§ *The Vice-Provost reads the lesson.*

The wise men follow the star to Jesus.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Matthew 2.1–12

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

CAROL

DORMI, Jesu! mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu, blandule.

Dormi, Jesu, blandule.

Si non dormis, mater plorat *If thou sleep not, mother mourneth*
Inter fila cantans orat *Singing as her wheel she turneth,*
Blande, veni, somnule. *Come, soft slumber, balmily.*

Dormi, Jesu, &c.

Sleep, sweet baby! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee, smiling:
Sleep, my darling, sleep, my darling, tenderly.

Dormi, Jesu, &c.

Latin, origin unknown
trans. *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

John Rutter
Oxford University Press

CAROL

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

please turn the page quietly

And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.

Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Traditional English

Traditional English
arr. *Stuart Nicholson*
Oxford University Press

§ *All stand.*

NINTH LESSON

§ *The Provost reads the lesson.*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1.1–14

Thanks be to God.

please turn the page quietly

HYMN



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.

O come, let us adore him &c.

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps.

O come, let us adore him &c.

Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:

O come, let us adore him &c.

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?

O come, let us adore him &c.

please turn the page quietly

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

O come, let us adore him &c.

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

O come, let us adore him &c.

Adeste, fideles
trans. *Frederick Oakley*,
William Thomas Brooke et al.

'*Adeste, fideles'*
John Francis Wade
arr. *David Willcocks* KC
verse 7 refrain arr. *Daniel Hyde* KC
Oxford University Press & Daniel Hyde

COLLECT & BLESSING

Dean THE LORD be with you.

All **AND WITH thy spirit.**

Dean 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.**

Dean 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

please turn the page quietly

HYMN



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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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 as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born 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.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley et al.
adapt. William Hayman Cummings

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
verse 3 arr. David Willcocks KC
Oxford University Press

please turn the page quietly

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

§ *As both organ voluntaries will be broadcast, please be as quiet as possible while they are played.*

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Bärenreiter Verlag

La Nativité du Seigneur
ix Dieu parmi nous

Olivier Messiaen

Éditions Alphonse Leduc

AT THE END of THE SERVICE

§ *All remain standing as the procession leaves the Chapel during the second organ voluntary.*

§ *Members of College and their guests follow the procession.*

§ *Please give generously to the retiring collection, which supports the life and work of the Chapel, using the Gift Aid envelope provided.*

§ *A contactless donation point is available in the Ante-Chapel.*

§ *Twenty per cent of all our collections is donated to charitable causes beyond the College.*

§ *Thank you for joining us for this service; please leave the College through the main gate onto King's Parade.*

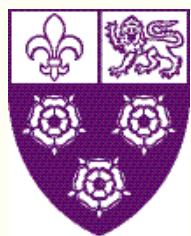
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from THE COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

I CHOSE Thomas Hardy's *The Darkling Thrush* to set as a carol because it's about faith in renewal. It was first suggested to me by my daughter who had studied Hardy's poems. I needed to find a text to sit within the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* at King's and initially I was unsure it would be appropriate. However, when the same poem was suggested by Laura Davies from the English Faculty at King's, I looked again and discovered much in the words to set. I was particularly drawn to its deep rural setting, beginning as it does in the cold winter landscape, and the uplifting song of the little bird that bursts out upon the stillness bringing hope.

The thrush's song in the poem is given to a solo chorister, and the choir responds in growing warmth and melody. The poignancy of a frail thrush's song as the bringer of hope into the world is, I feel, a good message for our time.

Rachel Portman



KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
MMXXV