

ST PAUL'S PARISH, RONDEBOSCH

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND
CAROLS

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2008
AT 7PM



INTRODUCTION

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of worship celebrating the birth of Jesus which is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, 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 Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880 in Truro, Cornwall. It has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge. The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. The music at the first service at King's was directed by Arthur Henry Mann, who was the organist from 1876 to 1929 and whose harmonies for "Once in Royal David City" are being used this evening. The service was first broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1928 and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since. It is estimated that each year there are millions of listeners worldwide who listen to it live on the BBC World Service.

This service allows the congregation to hear the words of scripture prophesying the coming of the Messiah as well as the events around his birth in Bethlehem. The carols are both ancient and modern in the true sense of those words and help us to appreciate the timelessness of the Christmas story and its significance for all people and all time.

The service this evening here at St Paul's is sung by the St Paul's Church Choir under the direction of our Director of Music Grant Brasler.

Please join the choir in the singing of the Christmas Hymns.

You are all invited to the **Main Hall** for sherry and mince pies.

Please note the Post Card Society are meeting in the Odendaal Hall

Processional Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Words: Mrs C F Alexander

Music: Irby H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76) Harm. A H Mann (1850-1929)

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BIDDING PRAYER

The Congregation, standing, shall be bidden to Prayer in these words:

BELOVED in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let' it be 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 our diocese. And because this 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 one for evermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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.

Carol: Up Good Christen folk and listen

Ding-dong, ding:	Tell the story how from glory
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:	God came down at Christmastide,
Ding-dong, ding-dong:	Bringing gladness,
Ding-a-dong-ding:	Chasing sadness,
	Show'ring blessings far and wide.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen	Born of mother, blest o'er other,
How the merry church bells ring,	Ex Maria Virgine,
And from steeple	In a stable
Bid good people	('tis no fable),
Come adore the new-born King:	Christus natus hodie.

Words: G. R. Woodward Music: from Piaae Cantiones Harmonized: G. R. Woodward

First Lesson—read by a child from the congregation

Gods tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of paradise

Carol: Adam Lay Ybounden

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

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been;
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavene queen.

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

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias

Words, 15th century

Music by Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Second Lesson—read by a member of the Organist

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

Carol: "In Dulci Jubilo"

In dulci jubilo
Let us our homage shew;
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio,
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O!

O Patris caritas,
O Nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stain`ed
Per nostra crimina;
But thou hast for us gain`ed
Coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there!

O Jesu parvule,
I yearn for thee alway;
Listen to my ditty,
O Puer optime,
Have pity on me, pity,
O princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te!

Ubi sunt gaudia, where,
If that they be not there?
There are angels singing
Nova cantica,
There the bells are ringing
In Regis curia:
O that we were there!

*Words: 14th Century German trans R.L.Pearsall Music: arr R .L. Pearsall
and W J Westbrook*

Third Lesson—read by a Choir member

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Hymn: 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 to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering 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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels[^],
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93) Tune: English Traditional Melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Fourth Lesson— read by a member of the sacristan team

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Carol: A Spotless rose

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and
might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Text: 14th Century origin

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Fifth Lesson— read by a member of the Women’s Association

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Carol: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow,
his eyes aflame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy
Name,"
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel,
by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will
ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Text: Trans Pettman

Music: Basque Noël - arr. Pettman

Hymn: Of the Father’s love begotten

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Words: Prudentius tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66) Music: Melody in Piae Cantiones (1582)

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A heart full of mirth
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him -
Give my heart.

Music: Harold E Darke (1888-1976)

Sixth Lesson—read by a Lay Minister

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Carol: Nativity Carol

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

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

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

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

Words and Music by John Rutter (b 1945)

Carol: On Christmas night all Christians Sing (Sussex 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.'

Words: Traditional Sussex Carol

*Music: English Traditional Melody arr. David
Willcocks (b 1919)*

Seventh Lesson—read by a Churchwarden

The Shepherds go to the manger

Carol: Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing

Whence is the goodly fragrance
flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance
flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps vieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes.
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes.

Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in ev'ry nation,
Goodwill in men of every race.
Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace.

Words: French trans. A B Ramsay

*Music French Traditional Carol arr David
Willcocks (b*

Hymn: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

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 humankind.

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:

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease.

Words: Nahum Tate

Tune: Winchester Old from Este's Psalter (1592)

Eighth Lesson—read by the Rev Pat van der Rede

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol: Three Kings from Persian Lands afar

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers
three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews
may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the
knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with
them!

The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not
bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Chorale (sung at the same time as the
above)
How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesu,
Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us,
Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing.

Words: P. Cornelius and P. Nicolai Translation: H.N. Bate Music: P. Cornelius

Arr.: Ivor Atkins

The congregation stands for the reading of the ninth Lesson

Ninth Lesson—Read by the Rector

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest':

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

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: J F Wade, tr F Oakley, W T Brooke Music: *Adeste Fideles* Melody J F Wade

Priest. Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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 Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

MAY he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 God with us 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 healings in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Words: C Wesley, T Whitefield, M Madan & others Music: F. Mendelssohn arr W H Cummings

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata from 5th Symphony by C Widor

A retiring collection will be taken after this service. It will be used to help the Rondebosch Community Policing Forum to give a Christmas Party for the homeless. This party was held on Friday 19th December 2008 but your contribution will assist St Paul's Parish to play its role in supporting this initiative.