

# **ST PAUL'S PARISH, RONDEBOSCH**

**SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND  
CAROLS**

**SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2009  
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 **Minor Hall** for sherry and mince pies.

Please note the Post Card Society is meeting in the Main Hall so please use the new ramp and stoep.

## 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: What sweeter music**

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honor to this day,  
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn,  
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and luster, public mirth,  
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart.

Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour, who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring,  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?

*Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)*

*Music John Rutter (b1945)*

**First Lesson**—read by a child from the congregation

GENESIS iii

*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.

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  
Abeen heavene queen.

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

*Words, 15th century*

*Music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930)*

## 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)*

## Second Lesson—read by the Organist

GENESIS xxii

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

## Carol: King Jesus hath a Garden

King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers,  
Where I go culling posies gay, all times and  
hours.

*There naught is heard but Paradise bird,  
Harp, dulcimer, lute,  
With cymbal, trump and tymbal,  
And the tender, soothing flute.*

The Lily, white in blossom there, is Chastity:  
The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humanity.  
*Refrain*

The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience:  
The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience.  
*Refrain*

Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may  
claim  
The Star of Bethlem-Jesus-bless'd be his Name!  
Refrain

*That I may hear this musick clear:  
Harp, dulcimer, lute,  
With cymbal, trump and tymbal,  
And the tender, soothing flute.*

Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete,  
Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim  
and neat.

*Words: Trad. Dutch Carol Translated G R Woodward*

*Music: Dutch tune arr. Charles Wood*

**Third Lesson**—read by a member of the Fund Raising Committee      ISAIAH ix  
*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.

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.

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.

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<sup>^</sup>,  
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 the Parish Secretary      MICAH v  
*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

### **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 Jesu parvule,  
My heart is sore for thee!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
O Puer optime,  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
O princeps gloriae!  
Trahe me post te!

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!  
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*

### **Fifth Lesson— read by a member of the Women's Association**

LUKE i

#### *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!

"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!

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!

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: Basque carol; trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Music: Basque Noël - arr. Pettman*

### **Sixth Lesson—read by a Church Warden**

MATTHEW i

#### *St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus*

## **Carol: The Infant King—Sing Lullaby**

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby baby, now reclining,  
sing lullaby!  
Hush, do not wake the infant King.  
Angels are watching, stars are shining  
over the place where He is lying:  
sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,  
sing lullaby!  
Hush, do not wake the infant King.  
Soon will come sorrow with the  
morning,  
soon will come bitter grief and weeping:  
sing lullaby!

*Words: Sabine Baring Gould*

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby baby, now a-dozing,  
sing lullaby!  
Hush, do not wake the infant King.  
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the  
piercing,  
then in the grave at last reposing;  
sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!  
Lullaby! is the babe awaking?  
Sing lullaby!  
Hush, do not stir the infant King.  
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning.  
conquering death, its bondage breaking:  
sing lullaby!

*Music: Old Basque Noel arr. Edgar Pettman*

## **Hymn: Unto us is born a Son**

1. Unto us is born a son,  
King of choirs supernal:  
See on earth his life begun,  
Of lords the Lord eternal.

2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger;  
Ox and ass their Owner know  
Now cradled in a manger.

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

*Words: Tr. G R Woodward*

4. Of his love and mercy mild  
Hear the Christmas story:  
O that Mary's gentle Child  
Might lead us up to glory!

5. O and A and A and O,  
Cantemus in choro,  
Voice and organ, sing we so,  
Benedicamus Domino.

*Music from Piae Cantiones, 1582 arr. D. Willcocks*

## **Seventh Lesson—read by a Lay Minister**

LUKE 11

### *The Shepherds go to the manger*

### **Carol: Ding dong! Merrily on High**

Ding dong merrily on high,  
In heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*Words: G R Woodward*

*Music: 16th C. French Tune arr. C Wood*

### **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:

'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, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to all

*Words: Nahum Tate*

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

### **Eighth Lesson—read by the Assistant Curate— Rev Pat van der Rede**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

## Carol: Bethlehem Down

"When He is King we will give Him the Kings' gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,  
Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

*Words: Bruce Blunt 1899-1957*

When He is King, they will clothe Him in  
gravesheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for  
dreaming,  
Close huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

*Music: Peter Warlock 1894-1930*

## Carol: Personent Hodie

Personent hodie  
voces puerulae,  
laudantes iucunde  
qui nobis est natus,  
summo Deo datus,  
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

In mundo nascitur,  
pannis involvitur  
praesepi ponitur  
stabulo brutorum,  
rector supernorum.  
perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.

*Words: Piae Cantiones: 1582 by Theodoric Petri of Hyland.*

Magi tres venerunt,  
parvulum inquirunt,  
parvulum inquirunt,  
stellulam sequendo,  
ipsum adorando,  
aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.

Omnes clericuli,  
pariter pueri,  
cantent ut angeli:  
advenisti mundo,  
laudes tibi fundo.  
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

**Free translation:** Sing aloud on this day! Children all raise the lay. Cheerfully we and they hasten to adore thee, sent from highest glory, for us born on this morn of the Virgin Mary. Now the child newly born, swathing bands him adorn. Manger bed he will not scorn; ox and ass draw near him. We as Lord revere him, and the vain powers of hell spoiled of prey now fear him. From the far Orient, a guiding star wise men sent. To seek him is their intent, Lord of all creation; we kneel in adoration. Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for their oblation. All now join him to praise; young and old voices raise on this day of all days; angel voices ringing, Christmas tidings bringing. Join we all "Gloria in excelsis" singing.

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:

'Final' from Symphony No 1 by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

**A retiring collection will be taken after this service. It will be used to help the Pastoral Task Team of the Parish for the monthly joint soup kitchen with St Michael's Catholic Church during 2010.**