

## A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols



### The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas time 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 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 King Charles.

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 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.

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 one 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:

*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.**

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.**

## Carol

- 1      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.
- 2      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.
- 3      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.
- 4      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.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)  
(CCLI 4756015)*

## FIRST LESSON 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.’

#### CAROL

- 1     The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
      his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
      ‘All hail’, said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,  
      most highly favoured lady.’  
      Gloria!
- 2     ‘For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
      all generations laud and honour thee,  
      thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
      most highly favoured lady.’  
      Gloria!
- 3     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!
- 4     Of her, Immanuel, 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!

*Birjina gastettobat zegoen Basque Carol, Charles Bordes (Collector) (1863-1909), Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) (Public Domain)*

#### SECOND LESSON 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.’

#### CAROL

- 1     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, goodwill to men,  
      from heaven’s all gracious King!”  
      The world in solemn stillness lay  
      to hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And ye beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening 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 (1810-1876)  
*(Public Domain)*

### THIRD LESSON. 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.

### CAROL

Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: ye shall find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

- 1 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 tonight.
- 2 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,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.
- 3 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.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
(CCLI 7004604, OL 194334)*

#### **FOURTH LESSON. 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;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 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.

### CAROL

1. **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.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**

*John Freeman Young (1887) based on Joseph Mohr (1818)  
 (CCLI 5894127)*

### FIFTH LESSON. 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.

### **SIXTH LESSON 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.

### **CAROL**

1.     **On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
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.**
  
2.     **Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
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.**
  
3.     **All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:-  
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.'**

### **SEVENTH LESSON. 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 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.

## CAROL

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around
2. "Fear not", said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind"
3. "To you, in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord  
And this shall be the sign"
4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
And in a manger laid"
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song
6. "All glory be to God on high  
And on the earth be peace  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease"

*Words: N. Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: from Este's Psalter (1592), v.6 arr.:*

*N. J. Marston (1958-) 33*

## **EIGHTH LESSON 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 Judah; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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.

## Poem

TO-NIGHT ungather'd let us leave  
This laurel, let this holly stand:  
We live within the stranger's land,  
And strangely falls our Christmas-eve.

Our father's dust is left alone  
And silent under other snows:  
There in due time the woodbine blows,  
The violet comes, but we are gone.

No more shall wayward grief abuse  
The genial hour with mask and mime,  
For change of place, like growth of time,  
Has broke the bond of dying use.

Let cares that petty shadows cast,  
By which our lives are chiefly proved,  
A little spare the night I loved,  
And hold it solemn to the past.

But let no footstep beat the floor,  
Nor bowl of wassail mantle warm;  
For who would keep an ancient form  
Thro' which the spirit breathes no more?

Be neither song, nor game, nor feast;  
Nor harp be touch'd, nor flute be blown;  
No dance, no motion, save alone  
What lightens in the lucid east

Of rising worlds by yonder wood.  
Long sleeps the summer in the seed;  
Run out your measured arcs, and lead  
The closing cycle rich in good.

*Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92)*

## NINTH LESSON John 1.1-14 38

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. The 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.

## Carol

1. 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.*
2. 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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*
3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*Translated from the Latin (18th century) by Frederick Oakely (1802-1880)(CCLI 5386491, OL 08975)*

## The Collect

The Lord be with you.

*All* And with thy spirit.

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.

## CAROL

1. 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!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King!*
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen 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 (1707-1788)  
(CCLI 5386491, OL 08975)

### 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas  
and a healthy New Year

You are warmly invited to stay behind for mince pies and drinks. If you would like to know more about the work of the Chaplaincy, please speak to one of us after the service or contact us - all details on [www.anglicanbc.org](http://www.anglicanbc.org)

There will be a collection as you leave for the ministry of the  
Anglican Chaplaincy of the Costa Brava.

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

