



Lessons and Carols  
*with*  
Morning Prayer

The First Sunday after Christmas  
December 26, 2021

## *Anglican Lessons and Carols Explained*

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College, Cambridge in England. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's. It was his conviction that the Church of England needed a more imaginative form of worship to honor the season.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, is derived from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'.

Our service of Lessons and Carols on this First Sunday of Christmas is adapted from the original Festival of Lessons and Carols. Our hope is to take a journey together in hearing the message of God's plan for the salvation of the world through His Son Jesus Christ. Let us read, mark and inwardly digest from Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose for His creation. From the first day of our disobedience against Him to the glorious Redemption bought for us by this holy Child; and let us fill this church with carols of praise and thanksgiving.



# The Word of God

## Prelude

*-All stand*

## Opening 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*

Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
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*

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## The Bidding Prayer

*-All may be seated*

## **First Lesson - Genesis 3:1-23 - *The Fall of Man***

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between

you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Reader:           The Word of the Lord.

**People:**           *Thanks be to God.*

*-All stand*

### ***It Came Upon The Midnight Clear***

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 heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Come round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

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*-All may be seated*

## **The Second Lesson - Isaiah 9:2-7 - *The Promised King***

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

*-All stand*

## ***The First Noel***

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night

*Noel Noel Noel Noel*  
*Born is the King of Israel*

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*-All may be seated*

## **Third Lesson - Micah 5:2-4 - *He Will Be Born in Bethlehem***

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. " Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

Reader:       The Word of the Lord.  
People:        ***Thanks be to God.***

*-All stand*

## *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 tonight  
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

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*-All may be seated*

## **Fourth Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-9 - *The Spirit Will Rest on Him***

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.



The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Reader:           The Word of the Lord.

**People:**           *Thanks be to God.*

***O Come O Come Emmanuel*** *[Remain sitting]*

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel*

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

*Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel*

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**Fifth Lesson - Luke 1:26-38 - *Gabriel Appears to Mary***

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most

High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

### ***What Child Is This***

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary  
  
So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary

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## Sixth Lesson - Luke 2:1-7 - *The Birth of Jesus*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader:       The Word of the Lord.

*People:       Thanks be to God.*

### *Away In A Manger*

Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes  
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

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## Seventh Lesson - Luke 2:8-20 - *Glory to God in the Highest*

*- At the reading of the Gospel, please stand.*

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

***People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

*-All stand*

## ***Angels We Have Heard On High***

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

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*-All may be seated*

## **Homily - The Rev. Jim McCaslin**

*-All stand and say together*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***  
***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.***  
***He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.***  
***He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.***  
***He descended to the dead.***  
***On the third day he rose again.***  
***He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***  
***He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

*-All may be seated or remain standing*

## **The Prayers**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

***People: And with your spirit.***

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

***People: Christ, have mercy upon us.***

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Officiant and People*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*-The Celebrant then says*

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

*-Officiant and People*

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,***

*but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Officiant: O Lord, show us your mercy;  
**People:** *And grant us your salvation.*

Officiant: O Lord, save our nations;  
**People:** **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**People:** *And make your chosen people joyful.*

Officiant: O Lord, save your people;  
**People:** *And bless your inheritance.*

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
**People:** *For only in you can we live in safety.*

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People:** *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People:** *And take not your Holy Spirit from us.*

## **Collect of the Day**

*-The Officiant prays.*

Almighty God, You have given us your only begotten son to take upon himself our human nature. Grant that we being regenerated by new life in His name and made his children by adoption and grace, may be renewed daily by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit now and forever. *Amen.*

## The Confession

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*- Officiant and People*

*Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against You  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.*

*- The officiant concludes with the absolution.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in ever lasting life. *Amen.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*-Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Lord Jesus Christ;**



**for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness  
of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.  
A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom**

*-The Officiant prays.*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.  
People: *Thanks be to God.*

*-All stand*

## **Closing Hymn**

### *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world; the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world  
With truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

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## **Final Blessing**

*-Officiant concludes.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20-21*





*Church of Our Savior  
2092 Beach Blvd, Jax Beach FL  
904-821-8558  
[church@church-savior.org](mailto:church@church-savior.org)*