



St. George's Anglican Church,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

January 5th, 2014 at 5:00 pm



The Nativity by Ghirlandaio, 1492

*Thanks to parishioners and friends for the time and loving energy given to God
and neighbour this Advent and Christmas season,*

*including
help with and
contributions to*

The Soup Kitchen
Baskets for shut-ins
Liturgical preparations
Shoeboxes for Seafarers
Worship services for the Deaf
The making of the beautiful garland
Cleaning and decorating the Church
The Stepping Stone Christmas dinner
Daily Morning and Evening Prayer in Advent
The Children's Christmas worship and pageant
Christmas Outreach (food and gifts for families in need)
YouthNet's St. Nick celebration for neighbourhood kids
Sunday School activities & the St. Nicholas Celebration

and to

The Altar Guild
Special musicians
The St. George's Choir
The Sidesmen and servers
The dedicated counters of the offering
And those who gave and prepared flowers for the altar

The offering this evening will be used to support the **St. George's Music Program**. If you would like to make a donation, please use the envelopes provided and make cheques out to 'The Friends of St. George's Society'.

SEASONAL MUSIC

Ellen Gibling, harp

The hand-candles are lit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Irby

The congregation is invited to stand and sing verses three through six.



- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| <i>Solo</i> | 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. | 4 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. |
| <i>Choir</i> | 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. | 5 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. |
| <i>All</i> | 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he. | 6 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. |

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)

Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)

THE BIDDING PRAYER *The congregation will remain standing*

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(said by all)*

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 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 congregation will be seated and the hand-candles extinguished.

THE INVITATORY **Jesu, as thou art our Saviour**

*Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, Jesu,
Save us all through Thy virtue.*

Jesu, as Thou art our Saviour
That Thou save us fro dolour!
Jesu is mine paramour.
Bless'd be Thy name, Jesu.

Jesu was born of a may
Upon Christemas Day,
She was may befornd and ay.
Bless'd be Thy name, Jesu.

Text: Anon 15th c.

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-19

Read by Susan Harris

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall 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." 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."

CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

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

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

3 Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our ladie,
Abeen heav'ne queen.

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

Text: anonymous, 15th century

Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Read by Steven Burns

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

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

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."

CAROL

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Jesous abatonbia (Jesus is born)

The congregation is invited to stand and sing.



1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel-choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wondering hunters heard the hymn:
*Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

3 The earliest moon of winter-time
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.
Refrain

2 Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel-song rang loud and high:
Refrain

4 O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou;
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Refrain

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1643, Huron

Music: arr. Healey Willan

The congregation will be seated.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Bill Naftel

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

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. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

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.

Anthem

Alleluya! a new work

Alleluya, a new work is come on hand
Through might and grace of Gode's son
To save the lost of every land
For now is free that erst was bound;
We may well sing Alleluya.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy
Of David and of Jeremy
And also of Isaiah; Alleluya
Sing we therefore both loud and high:
Alleluya.

Alleluya, this sweeté song
Out of a green branch it sprung.
God send us the life that lasteth long!
Alleluya, Now joy and bliss be him among
That thus can sing Alleluya.

Text: anonymous, 15th century

Music: Peter Wishart (1921-84)

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Jacqueline de Mestral

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

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: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 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.

HYMN**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming***Es ist ein Ros'**The congregation is invited to stand and sing.*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming,
 as men of old have sung.
 It came, a floweret bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 When half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind;
 With Mary we behold it,
 the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to men a Savior,
 When half spent was the night.

3 The shepherds heard the story
 proclaimed by angels bright,
 How Christ, the Lord of glory
 was born on earth this night.
 To Bethlehem they sped
 and in the manger found Him,
 As angel heralds said.

4 This Flower, whose fragrance
 tender with sweetness fills the air,
 Dispels with glorious splendor
 the darkness everywhere;
 True Man, yet very God,
 from sin and death He saves us,
 And lightens every load.

5 O Savior, Child of Mary,
 who felt our human woe,
 O Savior, King of glory,
 who dost our weakness know;
 Bring us at length we pray,
 to the bright courts of Heaven,
 And to the endless day!

Text: 15th century carol*Music:* Köln, Germany: 1599*The congregation will be seated.***ANTHEM****The Little Road to Bethlehem**

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
 The lambs were coming homeward one by one.
 I heard a sheepbell softly calling them,
 Along the little road to Bethlehem

Beside an open door as I drew nigh,
 I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
 She sang about the lambs at close of day,
 And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheepbell rang.
 "The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang.
 "Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky.
 So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
 The lambs were coming homeward one by one.
 I heard a sheepbell softly calling them,
 Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Text: Margaret Rose (d. 1958)*Music:* Michael Head (1900-1976)

FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke 1:26-38

Read by Palma Heming

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, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

And the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM**Ave Maria**

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

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

Text: The Angelus

Music: Robert Parsons

SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke 2:1-7

Read by Tovah Clift-vom Hagen

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 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 Judaea, 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.

ANTHEM

In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

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.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

CAROL

Rocking

1 Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

2 Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

Trad. Czech carol, arranged by David Wilcocks

OFFERTORY HYMN The First Nowell

The first nowell

The congregation is invited to stand and sing.

The offering this evening supports the St. George's Music Program.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the envelopes provided and make cheques out to 'The Friends of St. George's Society'. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2 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.

Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5 Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

Text: traditional English carol, 17th century

Music: The First Nowell (English traditional)

The congregation will be seated

SEVENTH LESSON

St. Luke 2:8-21

Read by Michael West

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. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

ANTHEM**The snow lay on the ground**

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.

Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,
that brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;
the angels hovered round, and sang this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Text: Anon 19th c

Music: David Conte (b. 1955)

EIGHTH LESSON

St. Matthew 2:1-12

Read by Kevin Gibson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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 Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired 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.

ANTHEM

Three Kings from Persian lands afar

1 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.
How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

3 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.
Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

2 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.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Text: : *Die Könige*, Peter Cornelius, 1859, Weihnachtslieder
trans. H. N. Bate, 1871

Music: Peter Cornelius (1824-74)

HYMN

Earth has many a noble city

Stuttgart

The congregation is invited to stand. During the singing of this hymn the hand-candles are lit.



1 Earth has many a noble city;
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
Out of thee the Lord from heaven
Came to rule his Israel.

3 Eastern sages at his cradle
Make oblation rich and rare;
See them give, in deep devotion,
Gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

5 Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped
At thy glad Epiphany,
Unto thee, with God the Father
And the Spirit, glory be.

2 Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth,
To the world its God announcing
Seen in fleshly form on earth.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
Incense doth their God disclose,
Gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
Myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.

Text: Trans. (1849) from the Latin of Prudentius
(348-413) by Rev. E. Caswall. *O sola magnarum urbium*

Music: *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gottha, 1715

The congregation will remain standing for the ninth lesson. At the words, “and the Word was made flesh...”, the congregation may bow on one knee momentarily to reverence the fact of Almighty God taking on our nature and human flesh for our salvation. We join with the ancient shepherds and animals in the stable who represent the whole created order, which falls down to worship the Christ Child – our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

NINTH LESSON

St. John 1:1-14

Read by the Rev'd Canon James Purchase

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.

The congregation will be seated.

MOTET

O magnum mysterium

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum, jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.
Alleluia!

*O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the Lord,
new-born, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

Text: Matin Responsory for Christmas Day

Music: William Byrd (1540-1632)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Priest: Let us pray.

The congregation is invited to kneel and the hand-candles are extinguished.

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

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles



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.
Refrain

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

4 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest; *Refrain*

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

Text: Tr. (1841) from the Latin (18th cent.) by F. Oakeley, W. T. Brooke & others *Music:* J. F. Wade (c.1743) arr. D. Willcocks

VOLUNTARY

Noël Swisse

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

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