



A Festival of

# Nine Lessons & Carols

5.30pm, Sunday 11 December 2022

St Michael's Uniting Church



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean after experience as an army chaplain; this experience convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that there was scope for something a little more imaginative.

The 1918 service was adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson for use at 10pm on Christmas Eve in 1880, in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his Cathedral in Truro (Cornwall, UK). The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually.

Today, this service is heard and adapted throughout the world. This evening's ecumenical Nine Lessons and Carols in Melbourne is both a celebration of the forthcoming season of Christmas, and the great privilege that we have to live in Melbourne's predominantly cohesive and peaceful society.

This evening's service is hosted by Excelsis, who will be singing alongside the Australian Welsh Male Choir, the Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir and choristers from Kingswood College (Box Hill).

Excelsis extends its very sincere thanks to Rev. Dr. Margaret Mayman and everyone at St Michael's Uniting Church, for making us so welcome this evening.

Finally, thank you for joining us for this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. We hope that you will embrace the opportunity that this evening presents to take some time out amidst the busy lead-up to Christmas, to reflect on the lessons shared and to enjoy listening to and joining with the many carols that are to be sung.

From everyone at Excelsis, we wish you a very merry Christmas.

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please follow us on Facebook or Instagram:**



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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All congregational carols and responses are printed in **bold**. Please stand to sing the processional carol, joining in from the second verse.*

## **CAROL** – Once in Royal David's City

Solo: Alina Leung, Descant: Grace Robertson  
All choirs and congregation (from third verse)

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.

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 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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: C. F. Alexander (1818-95)  
Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-76);  
Harm. A. H. Mann (1850-1929)  
Descant: Sir David Willcocks

*Please remain standing for the bidding prayer led by Rev. Dr. Margaret Mayman.*

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

Holy God, in this season of Christmas we yearn for you to be born in us again.

Source of Life – who called the rich to travel toward poverty, the powerful to know their own frailty; who gave to strangers a sense of homecoming in an alien land and to stargazers true light and vision as they bowed to earth – we lay ourselves open to your signs for us.

Stir us with holy discontent over a world which gives its gifts to those who have plenty already, whose talents are obvious, whose power is recognised; and help us both to share our resources with those who have little, and to receive with humility the gifts they bring to us. Rise within us, like a star, and make us restless till we journey forth to seek our rest in you. Amen.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**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 the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated for the carol.*

# CAROL - In Dulci Jubilo

All choirs

*In dulci jubilo [In quiet joy]*  
Let us our homage shew  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
*In praeseptio [in a manger]*  
And like a bright star shineth  
*Matris in gremio! [in the mother's lap]*  
*Alpha es et O! [Thou art Alpha & Omega]*

*O Jesu parvule [O tiny Jesus]*  
I yearn for Thee alway;  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
*O puer optime! [O best of boys]*  
My prayer, let it reach thee,  
*O princeps gloriae! [Prince of glory]*  
*Trahe me post te! [draw me unto thee]*

*O patris caritas, [O father's caring]*  
*O nati lenitas, [O newborn's mildness]*  
Deeply were we stained  
*Per nostra crimina [by our crimes]*  
But Thou, hast for us gained  
*Coelorum gaudia. [heavenly joy]*  
O that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia [where be joys]*  
If that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
*Nova cantica: [new songs]*  
There the bells are ringing  
*In Regis curia. [at the king's court]*  
O that we were there!

Words: German/Latin text (1570);  
English tr. R.L. Pearsall (1795-1856)  
Music: Old German tune;  
arr. R.L. Pearsall;  
ed. and ad. Reginald Jacques

*Please remain seated for the first lesson, read by Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche PE.*

# FIRST LESSON

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carols.*

# CAROL - Deo Gracias

Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir

*Deo gracias [Thanks be to God]*

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

*Deo gracias [Thanks be to God]*

And all was for an appil,  
An appil that he tok,  
As clerkes finden  
Written in their book.

*Deo gracias [Thanks be to God]*

Ne had the appil takè ben,  
The appil takè ben,  
Ne haddè never our lady  
A ben hevenè queen.

Blessèd be the time,  
That appil takè was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Singen, singen singen.

*Deo gracias [Thanks be to God]*

Words: 15th Century Middle-English/Latin, author unknown  
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
from A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28

## CAROL - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

All choirs

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!

'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!

Words: S. Baring-Gould (1843-1924)  
based on 'Birjina gaztettobat zegoen'  
Music: Traditional Basque melody;  
arr. R.H. Lloyd (1933-2021)

*Please remain seated for the second lesson, read by Rev. Kim Kiessling.*

## SECOND LESSON

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*  
GENESIS 22:15-18

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carol.*

# CAROL - See Amid the Winter's Snow

Australian Welsh Male Choir

See amid the winter's snow  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn.  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
What your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have you left your sheep?  
On the lonely mountain steep.

As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous sight,  
Angels singing "Peace on earth"  
Told us of the Saviour's birth.

Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss,  
Down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy sweet humility!

Words: E. Caswell (1814-1878)  
Music: 'Humility', J. Goss (1800-1880);  
arr. A. Simmons

*Please stand for the congregational carol.*

# **CAROL** - While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night

All choirs and congregation

**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 all mankind.'**

**'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 on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'**

Words: N. Tate (1652-1715)

Music: 'Winchester Old', Este's Psalter (1592)

*Please be seated for the third lesson, read by Rev. Sandy Boyce.*

## THIRD LESSON

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

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. 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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carol.*

### **CAROL** - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Excelsis

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

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 us a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.

Words: Traditional German (1599);  
English translation T. Baker (1851-1934)  
Music: Traditional;  
Harm. M. Praetorius (1571-1621)

*Please stand for the congregational carol.*

# **CAROL** - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

All choirs and congregation

**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 heav'n's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing:  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long:  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong:  
And man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!**

**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 it's ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Words: E.H. Sears (1810-1876)  
Music: Traditional English tune;  
ad. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

*Please be seated for the fourth lesson, read by Rev. Andriy Mykytyuk.*

## FOURTH LESSON

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

ISAIAH 11:1-4a, 6-9

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. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand for the congregational carol.*

### **CAROL** - In the Bleak Midwinter

All choirs and congregation

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds 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, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**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 can I give him? Give my heart.**

Words: C. Rosetti (1830-1894)

Music: 'Cranham' G.T. Holst (1874-1834)

*Please be seated for the fifth lesson, read by Rev. Canon Dr. Ray Cleary AM.*

## FIFTH LESSON

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

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 Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carol.*

### CAROL - O Magnum Mysterium

Excelsis

*O magnum mysterium, [O great mystery,  
et admirabile sacramentum, [and wonderful sacrament,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, [that animals should see the newborn Lord]  
iacentem in praesepe! [lying in a manger!]  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera [Blessed in the virgin whose womb]  
meruerunt portare [was worthy to bear]  
Dominum Iesum Christum. {the Lord, Jesus Christ.}  
Alleluia!*

Words: Matins of Christmas, Roman Breviary  
Music: M. Lauridsen (1943- )

*Please remain seated for the sixth lesson, read by Rev. Siôn Gough Hughes.*

# SIXTH LESSON

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

LUKE 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 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 Judæa, 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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carols.*

## CAROL – Tawel Nos

Mornington Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir and Australian Welsh Male Choir

*Tawel nos dros y byd, [Silent night all over the world,]  
Sanctaidd nos gyloch y crud; [Holy night around the cradle;]  
Gwylion dirion yr oedd addfwyn ddau, [Looking on tenderly are the gentle pair,]  
Faban Duw gyda'r llygaid bach cau, [at the Son of God with His little, closed eyes,]  
Iesu T'wysog ein hedd. [Jesus, Prince of Our Peace.]*

*Sanctaidd nos gyda'i ser; [Holy night with its stars;]  
Mantell fwyn, cariad per, [Gentle cloak of pure love,]  
Mintai'r bugail yn dod i fwynhau, [the shepherds say come to adore,]  
Baban Duw gyda'r llygaid bach cau, [the Son of God with His little, closed eyes,]  
Iesu T'wysog ein hedd. [Jesus, Prince of Our Peace.]*

*Tawel nos, Duw ei Hun [Silent night, God Himself]  
Ar y llawr gyda dyn; [on the Earth with man;]  
Cerddi'r engyl, a'r Ne'n trugarhau; [The music of the angels and the heavens have mercy;]  
Baban Duw gyda'r llygaid bach cau, [on the Son of God with His little, closed eyes,]  
Iesu, T'wysog ein hedd. [Jesus, Prince of Our Peace.]*

German words: J. Mohr (1792-1848);  
Welsh translation Anonymous  
Music: F.X. Gruber (1787-1863);  
arr. R.L. Robinson;  
ad. T. Buchanan

# CAROL - Above the Fields of Snow

All choirs

When Christmas bells are swinging above the fields of snow,  
We hear sweet voices ringing from lands of long ago.  
And etched on vacant places, are half forgotten faces,  
Of friends we used to cherish, and loves we used to know -  
When Christmas bells are swinging above the fields of snow.

Uprising from the ocean of the present surging near,  
We see, with strange emotion that is not free from fear,  
That continent Elysian, long vanished from our vision,  
Youth's lovely lost Atlantis, so mourned for and so dear,  
Uprising from the ocean of the present surging near.

For life was made for loving, and love alone repays,  
As passing years are proving for all of Time's sad ways.  
There lies a sting in pleasure, and fame gives shallow measure,  
And wealth is but a phantom that mocks the restless days,  
For life was made for loving, and only loving pays.

When Christmas bells are pelting the air with silver chimes,  
And silences are melting to soft, melodious rhymes,  
Let Love, the worlds beginning, end fear and hate and sinning;  
Let Love, the God Eternal, be worshipped in all climes  
When Christmas bells are pelting the air with silver chimes.

Words: E. Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

Music: T. Buchanan

*Please remain seated for the seventh lesson, read by Mr Arnold Ravanal.*

## SEVENTH LESSON

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

LUKE 2:8-16

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand to sing the carol, joining in for each refrain.*

# **CAROL** - O, Holy Night

Verse: Choirs of Kingswood College

Refrain: All choirs and congregation

O, holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

**Fall on your knees,  
O, hear the angel voices,  
O, night divine, O, night when Christ was born,  
O, night divine, O, night, O night divine.**

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
There came the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

**He knows our need,  
To our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before him lowly bend,  
Behold your King, before him lowly bend.**

Truly he taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother  
And in his name all oppression shall cease,  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name.

**Christ is the Lord,  
O, praise his name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.**

Words: E. Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

Music: T. Buchanan

*Please sit for the eighth lesson, read by Ms Trudi Mackenzie.*

## EIGHTH LESSON

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

MATTHEW 2:1-12

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

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

Thanks be to God.

*Please remain seated for the carol.*

# CAROL - The Angels' Carol

Excelsis

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices  
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?  
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly  
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?  
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven  
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo [Glory to God in the highest]*  
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,  
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;  
He is come in joy like the sun at morning  
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.  
He is come in love as the child of Mary;  
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo [Glory to God in the highest]*  
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on Earth'.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,  
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;  
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations  
When he comes to reign in purity and love,  
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;  
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo [Glory to God in the highest]*  
Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

Words and Music: J.M. Rutter (1945- )

*Please stand for the congregational carol.*

# CAROL - Away in a Manger

All choirs and congregation

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright 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 side until 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.**

Words: Anonymous  
Music: W.J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921);  
arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please sit for the ninth lesson, read by Rev. Dr. Margaret Mayman.*

## NINTH LESSON

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

JOHN 1:1-14

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.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand for the congregational carol.*

**CAROL** - O Come, All Ye Faithful

All choirs and congregation

**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 heav'n above;  
Glory to God, in the highest.**

Words: Latin 18th Century;  
English tr. F. Oakeley (1802-1880), *et al.*  
Music: J.F. Wade (1711-1786)  
Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please remain standing for the Collect and Blessing, led by Rev. Canon Dr. Ray Cleary AM.*

# THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

N: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with thy spirit.**

N: 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.**

N: 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.**

*Please remain standing for the carols.*

## **CAROL** - Hallelujah!

All choirs

Hallelujah!  
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world  
Is become the kingdom of our Lord  
And of His Christ.  
And He shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings and Lord of lords.  
Hallelujah!

Words: Revelation 19:6, 16. 11:15.  
Music: G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

# **CAROL** - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

All choirs and congregation

**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 man with man to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun 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.**

Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788), *et al.*  
Music: F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847);  
ad. W.H. Cummings (1831-1915)  
Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

# ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen*  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum mysterium)*  
Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

*Recessional on "I Saw Three Ships"*  
Douglas E. Wagner (1952-)

## CLERGY

**Rev. Sandy Boyce**  
Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches

**Rev. Canon Dr. Ray Cleary AM**  
Locum Vicar, Christ Church South Yarra, Anglican Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche PE**  
Priest, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Rev. Siôn Gough Hughes**  
Minister, Melbourne Welsh Church

**Rev. Kim Kiessling**  
Pastor, German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne

**Rev. Dr. Margaret Mayman**  
Minister, St Michael's Uniting Church, Melbourne

**Rev. Andriy Mykytyuk**  
Priest, The Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Ardeer

## MUSIC TEAM

Musical Director  
**Mr Tom Buchanan**

Organist  
**Mr Zachary Hamilton-Russell**

Pianists  
**Ms Kerith Cummins and Mr Simon Stone**



EXCELSIS