

THE YORK ORATORY

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, DUNCOMBE PLACE, YORK YO1 7EF

YORKORATORY.COM

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



Wednesday, 20th December 2023
'O Clavis David'

THE CHOIR OF THE YORK ORATORY

Samuel Austin, FRCO, *Director of Music*

Steven Maxson, *Organist*

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude on 'Irby'

Ian Tracey
(b. 1955)

CAROL

*Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the choir alone.
The congregation is invited to join at verse 3.*

IRBY (87.87.77)

Henry J. Gauntlett (1805–1876)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. | 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;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around. |

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)

BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19

CAROL

Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)

Kyrie eleison. [Lord, have mercy.]

The Lord will surely come and not delay and He will bring to light the things hidden in darkness.

The Lord will surely come and will manifest Himself to all nations.

*Therefore work out your own salvation with fear and trembling that you may be blameless
and innocent, Children of God without blemish.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

CAROL

VENI EMMANUEL

15th century French Franciscan Processional
adapted Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
<i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.</i> | 4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave. |
| 2. O come, thou Wisdom, from on high,
And order all things far and nigh:
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. | 5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. |
| 3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe. | 6. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. |
| 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid every strife and sorrow cease
And fill the world with heaven's peace. | |

Veni, veni Emmanuel 13th century
based on the Advent 'O' Antiphons
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL

Sir John Tavener
(1944-2013)

God is with us.
Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The people that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.
For unto us a child is born! For 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.
Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.
God is with us. Christ is born!

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

CAROL

Harold Darke
(1888-1976)

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
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 mid-winter
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 down 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 can I give him,
Give my heart.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38



*Angelus ad virginem Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem Demulcens, inquit, Ave!
Ave, regina virginum; Cæli terræque Dominum
Concipies et paries Intacta Salutem hominum:
Tu porta cæli facta, Medela criminum.*

*Quomodo conciperem Quæ virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem Quod firma mente vovi?
Spiritus Sancti gratia Perficiet hæc omnia;
Ne timeas, Sed gaudeas,
Secura Quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura Dei potentia.*

*Ad hæc virgo nobilis Respondens inquit ei:
Ancilla sum humilis Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi cælesti nuntio, Tanti secreti conscio.
Consentitens, et cupiens Videre Factum quod audio;
Parata sum parere, Dei consilio.*

*Eia mater Domini, Quæ pacem redidisti
Angelis et homini, Cum Christum genuisti;
Tuum exora filium Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et debeat Peccata: Præstans auxilium
Vita frui beata Post hoc exilium.
Deo Gracias.*

When the angel came secretly to
the virgin in her room,
Soothing the maiden's fear, he said: Hail!
Hail, Queen of virgins.
While not yet touched by a man
You shall conceive and bear the Lord of heaven
and earth, salvation for mankind.
You have become the gate of heaven,
a remedy for sins.

How can I conceive, since I have not known a man?
How can I break the vow I made with firm intent?

The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall bring all this to pass.
Fear not, but rejoice,
secure in the knowledge that pure chastity
shall remain yours through God's mighty power.

To this the noble Virgin replied, saying:
I am the lowly handmaiden of Almighty God.
I bend my will to you, O celestial messenger,
who share so great a mystery,
and I long to see performed what I now hear.
I am ready to yield myself to God's design.

Ah, mother of the Lord,
who gave back peace to angels and mankind
when you bore Christ,
pray your son to be gracious to us,
and wipe away our sins, granting us aid
to enjoy a blessed life after this exile.
Thanks be to God.



HYMN

OXFORD (77.77.D)

John Goss (1800-1880)



1. See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn,
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*
2. Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
4. 'As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing peace on earth,
Told us of the Saviour's birth.'
5. Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss,
Down to such a world as this!
6. Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild;
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility.
7. Virgin Mother, Mary blest,
By the joys that fill thy breast,
Pray for us, that we may prove
Worthy of the Saviour's love.

Edward Caswall, Cong. Orat. (1814-1878)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

HYMN

WINCHESTER OLD (CM)

Thomas East's Psalms 1592



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

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL

Tomàs Luis de Victoria
(c.1548-1611)

*O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepe!
O beata Virgo,
cujus viscera meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia!*

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

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

CAROL

ADESTE FIDELES

John Francis Wade's MS book c.1740



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Adeste fideles,
Laeti triumphantes;
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;
Natum videte
Regem angelorum:
Venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum! | 3. Cantet nunc Io!
Chorus angelorum:
Cantet nunc aula coelestium,
Gloria
In excelsis Deo! |
| 2. Deum de Deo,
Lumen de lumine,
Gestant puellae viscera;
Deum verum,
Genitum, non factum: | 4. Ergo qui natus
Die hodierna,
Jesu, tibi sit gloria:
Patris aeterni
Verbum caro factum! |

John Francis Wade's MS book c.1740

COLLECT AND BLESSING

CAROL

Philip Stopford
(b. 1977)

*May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wise men,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.*

*May Christ, who by his incarnation
Gathered into one all things earthly, all things heavenly, and fill you with joy and peace.
And the blessing of God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Be with you and remain with you always, Amen.*

HYMN

MENDELSSOHN (7777.7777.77)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



1. Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*
3. Hail the heav'n-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.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

