

# Worship Outline

December 30, 2018

Christmastide Lessons and Carols

*The Service of Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral (England) on Christmas Eve, 1880, when the Bishop of Truro, F.W. Benson, developed a service of scripture readings and supporting carols.*

*Some 38 years later in 1918, this format was adapted for Christmas at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The BBC broadcast from King's College helped to popularize the Service of Lessons and Carols, which Cathedrals and small churches throughout the world quickly duplicated.*

*The heart of the service continues to this day – that is, the retelling of the Christians' story of faith from the fall of Adam to the coming of the Word Incarnate.*

## The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Prelude

*Love Was When*  
Wyrzten

+Opening Hymn 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

+Prayers of Intercession

Book of Common Worship  
page 184

+Bidding Carol 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

# The Nine Lessons

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8 - 15

*Adam and Eve disobey God's command  
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation*

Carol 82

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set the people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every loving heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15–18

*God promises that, through Abraham,  
all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

Carol 88 (verses 1 & 4)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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 root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from the depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6–7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

Anthem

Unto Us, Gloria  
Althouse  
Chancel Choir

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2–4

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

Carol 121

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on Earth.*

*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.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26–38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.*

Carol 99 (verses 1 and 2)

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me; yes, holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18–23

*Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Carol 110

*Love Has Come*

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!  
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love!  
Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8–16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

Carol 147 (verses 1 & 2)

*The First Nowell*

*The first Nowell 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.*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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.*

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

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

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

Carol 147 (verses 3 & 4)

*The First Nowell*

*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.*

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

*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.*

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

Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1-14

*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

Carol 144 (verses 1 & 4)

*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.*

*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.*

The Offering  
Invitation

Offertory  
*Noel*

*A Joyous Carol "French*

Leon  
Roques

\*Doxology 84 (verse 4)

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

*To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.*

The Prayer and Blessing

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, 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.

+Closing Hymn 155

*Raise a Song of Gladness*

Postlude

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
Mendelssohn