
A BRIEF HISTORY OF "A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS"

The service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. Inspired by a similar service dating to 1880, the dean, Eric Milner-White, crafted this liturgy in an effort to bring more imaginative worship to the Church of England.

With the exception of 1930, "Nine Lessons and Carols" has been broadcast from King's College every year since 1928 (even during the Second World War when to avoid the threat of bombing the ancient glass windows, and also all the heat, had been removed from the chapel). Sometime in the early 1930's the BBC began to play the service on their overseas programs, and today it is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide.

The lessons and prayers have remained virtually unchanged since Dean Milner-White's tenure; wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, these remain its foundation. The power of this liturgy derives from the scripture readings – as Dean Milner-White wrote, "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God... [seen] through the windows and words of the Bible."

Although the pattern for "Lessons and Carols" remains the same, local concerns and personal circumstances affect how we experience this liturgy from year to year. Many of those who took part in the first service, for example, must have recalled those killed in World War I when they prayed for "all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light." When they hear these words, following the extraordinary events of these past three years, many today might be thinking of a loved one who has recently died. May you experience Emmanuel, God with us, on this night and "go in heart and mind" to follow where the story leads.

PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'
Prelude on 'Irby'

Charles Callahan
Dom Andrew Moore

HYMN 102

"Once in royal David's city"

Irby

Verse 1 will be sung by James Barkley.

BIDDING PRAYER

The Book of Occasional Services, page 31

Officiant Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

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

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.

THE INVITATORY “Prepare Thyself, Zion” (from the *Christmas Oratorio*) J. S. Bach
arr. Michael Burkhardt

*Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection,
the purest, the fairest, this day to receive.*

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 A member of the Good Shepherd Choir
Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." ¹⁷And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

Adam Lay Ybounden

Thomas Gibbs

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, Ne had never our lady a been heavené queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias!

text: 15th century carol, anonymous

THE SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

A member of the Alleluia Choir

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 67

"Comfort, comfort ye my people"

Psalm 42

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

A member of the staff

Reader A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

Veiled In Darkness

Glenn L. Rudolph

Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the promised day, while across the shadowy night streamed a flood of glorious light, heavenly voices chanting then, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men." Still the earth in darkness lies, up from death's dark vale arise voices of a world in grief, prayers of men who seek relief; now our darkness pierce again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men." Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon thy world today; break the gloom of our dark night, fill our souls with love and light, send thy blessed word again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

text: Douglas Letel Rights

THE FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

A representative of the Outreach Commission

Reader A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The

nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or 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 Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

arr. K. Lee Scott

Commissioned by The Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, North Carolina with thanksgiving for thirty years of service by Lawrence Goering as Organist and Director of Music.

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. With great delight I'll make my stay, there's none shall fright my soul away; Among the folk of earth I see, there's none like Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree. text: Joshua Smith

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:22-35, 38

A representative of the community

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people." ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

There Is No Rose

arr. Alan Bullard

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. The angels sung the shepherds to: 'Gloria in excelsis Deo.' Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.

text: 15th Century Carol

THE SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1, 3-7

The Director of Communications

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 79

"O little town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

THE SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

The Junior Warden

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,

praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

The Shepherds Sing

K. Lee Scott

*Commissioned in loving memory of Lynn Kroncke
Chorister, Flutist, and Children’s Choir Director*

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be? My God, no hymn for thee? My soul’s a shepherd too: a flock it feeds of thoughts, and words, and deeds. The pasture is thy Word; the streams, thy grace enriching all the place. Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers out-sing the daylight hours. Then we will chide the sun for letting night take up his place and right; We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should Himself the candle hold. I will go searching, till I find a sun, shall stay till we have done; A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly as frost-nipped suns look sadly. Then we will sing and shine all our own day, and one another pay; His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine till even his beams sing, and my music shine.

text: George Herbert

THE EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

The Senior Warden

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they

saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

ANTHEM

Saw You Never In The Twilight

arr. Mark Schweizer

Saw you never, in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies, up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes? So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star, and they knew the King was given, and they followed from afar. Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild, journeyed on by plain and mountain, till they found the Holy Child? How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant King; gave the gold and fragrant incense, myrrh in offering? Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning Star? He who came to light the Gentiles, and the isles afar? And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring; Love, and faith, and true devotion for our Savior, God and King.

text: C. F. Alexander, 1853

THE NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

The Priest-in-Charge

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 112

"In the bleak midwinter"

Cranham

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Tonight's offering is given to the glory of God and will support the Church of the Good Shepherd's outreach ministries in our community.

ANTHEM *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance: Refrain: Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance: Refrain. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor, this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance: Refrain. Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance: Refrain. text: Traditional Carol

HYMN 105 "God rest you merry" *God Rest You Merry*

ADVENT BLESSING The Book of Occasional Services, page 22

Officiant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People **Amen.**

Officiant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

HYMN 87 "Hark! the herald angels sing" *Mendelssohn*

VOLUNTARY *In dulci jubilo* J. S. Bach

All are invited to the parish hall following the service for conversation, cider, and cookies.

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Acolyte

Lynden Meiring

Audiovisual Engineer

Ron Sowers

Alleluia Choir

James Barkley, Voga Duffee, Jack Dwight,
Henrietta Evans, Rowland Evans and Wyatt Wagley; Julianne Wilson, conductor

Good Shepherd Choir

Ben Blackburn, Emily Bondy, Paul Bondy, Daniel Daughtridge, Lance Daughtridge,
Corey Folta, Gail Jackson, Marzena Laszewski, Becky Michelfelder, Barbara Mullen,
Marvin Newsom, Mary Palmer, Peter Sowerwine, Paula Stiles,
Jenny Williams, and Julianne Wilson

Musicians

Beth Kupsco, flutist; Lance Daughtridge, percussionist

Officiant

The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter

Organist

Lawrence Goering

Readers

Daniel Daughtridge (first lesson), Rowland Evans (second lesson), Lawrence Goering
(third lesson), Gayle Edwards (fourth lesson), Lemanuel Williams, Founding &
Executive Director of Building Shalom (fifth lesson), Susan Folta (sixth lesson),
Emily Dwight (seventh lesson), Kenneth Burnette (eighth lesson),
The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter (ninth lesson)

CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Christmas Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24th

4:30 p.m. -- Musical Prelude

5:00 p.m. -- Service Begins

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m.

VESTRY

Class of 2026

Brenning Daughtridge

Emily Dwight

Britt Myers

Class of 2027

Kenneth Burnette

Barbara Hicks

Jack Miller

John Tobias

Class of 2028

Corey Folta

Heather Seale

Senior Warden Kenneth Burnette

Clerk Gayle Edwards

Junior Warden Emily Dwight

Treasurer Jack Miller

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The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter (rzartman@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Priest-in-Charge*

For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message

on Becky's mobile phone: 570-259-0671

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please consider donating online using this QR code:



**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL
231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.goodshepherdrmt.org (252) 442-1134**

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language – livestreamed at *goodshepherdlive.org*)

Wednesday Service

12:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)