

The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond  
Richmond Team Ministry

# Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Sunday 22 December 2024*



*Welcome to this service of scripture and music, which traces the loving purposes of God from the origin of all things to the embodiment of God's love in the birth of Jesus.*

*Please stand for the carols and be seated for the readings (apart from the last lesson) and items sung by the choir. There will be no announcements in this service.*

## Organ Voluntaries

*Johann Pachelbel* Von himmel hoch da komm' ich her

*Olivier Messiaen* La Vierge et L'Enfant from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

*Johannes Brahms* Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Please STAND

Carol

*Solo* 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.

*Choir* 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.

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Please remain *STANDING*

## Bidding Prayer

*ending with:*

**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, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace;  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,  
and to the fellowship of the citizens above  
may the King of angels bring us all.

**Amen.**

*Please SIT*

Genesis 3:8-15

*Adam's Fall*

**First Lesson**

Reader: Ruth Martin

Adam lay ybounden *Boris Ord*

**Choir**

*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 clerkës finden  
written in their book.*

*Nor had one apple taken been,  
the apple taken been,  
then had never Our Lady,  
a-been heaven's queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
that apple taken was!  
therefore we moun singen  
Deo gratias!*

*Words: Anon. 15<sup>th</sup> century*

*Please STAND*

**Carol**

**Of the Father's heart begotten  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha: from that Fountain  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic Close,  
          evermore and evermore.**

*Upper voices*

**2 By his word was all created;  
he commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
all that breathes beneath the sun  
          evermore and evermore.**

*Lower voices*

**3 He assumed this mortal body,  
frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
that the race from dust created  
might not perish utterly,  
which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
in the depths of hell to lie,  
          evermore and evermore.**

*Upper voices*

**4 O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
by the Holy Ghost conceived;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
in her loving arms received,  
          evermore and evermore.**

**5 This is he, whom seer and sybil  
sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
in the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
          evermore and evermore.**

**6 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
let your joyous anthems ring,  
every tongue his name confessing,  
countless voices answering,  
          evermore and evermore.**

Latin, Prudentius, 348-413; tr RF Davis 1866-1937 NEH 33

*Please SIT*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*Unto us a child is born*

**Third Lesson**  
Reader: Jane Norris

*Please STAND*

**Carol**

**Unto us is born a Son!  
King of quires supernal:  
see on earth his life begun,  
of lords the Lord eternal,  
of lords the Lord eternal.**

**2 Christ, from heav'n descending low, *Upper voices*  
comes on earth a stranger;  
ox and ass their owner know,  
*becradled in the manger.***

*Lower voices*

**3 This did Herod sore affray,  
and grievously bewilder,  
so he gave the word to slay,  
*and slew the little childer.***

**4 Of his love and mercy mild  
this the Christmas story;  
and O that Mary's gentle Child  
*might lead us up to glory!***

**5 O and A, and A and O,  
*cum cantibus in choro,*  
let our merry organ go,  
*benedicamus Domino.***

Latin, 15th century Tr PERCY DEARMER 1867-1936 CfC I

Please SIT

Micah 5:2-4

*The glory of Bethlehem*

**Fourth Lesson**

Reader: Seb Gillot

There is no rose *Britten*

**Choir**

*There is no rose of such virtue  
as is the rose that bare Jesu;  
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was  
heaven and earth in little space;  
Res miranda.*

*by that rose we may well see  
there be one God in persons three,  
pares forma.*

*The angels sung the shepherds to:  
gloria in excelsis deo:  
gaudeamus.*

*Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
and follow we this joyful birth;  
transeamus.*

*alleluia, Res miranda,  
pares forma, gaudeamus,  
transeamus.*

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Gabriel's message*

**Fifth Lesson**

Reader: Ros Ridout

Please STAND

**Carol**

**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 to-night.**

**2 O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels  
keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

*Choir only*

3 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.

*Please SIT*

**Luke 2:1-7**

*The birth of Jesus*

**4 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 with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-93) NEH 32

**Sixth Lesson**

Reader: Alex Purcell

*In dulci jubilo Old German carol arr. Pearsall*

**Choir**

*In dulci jubilo,  
let us our homage show!  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
in praesepio;  
and like a bright star shineth  
matris in gremio.  
Alpha es et O!*

*O Jesu parvule!  
I yearn for thee always  
hear me, I beseech thee,  
O Puer optime!  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
O Princeps gloriae!  
Trahe me post te!*

*O Patris caritas  
O Nati lenitas  
deeply were we stained  
per nostra crimina  
but thou hast for us gained  
coelorum gaudia.  
O that we were there!*

*Ubi sunt gaudia  
if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing  
nova cantica  
there the bells are ringing  
in regis curia:  
O that we were there*

**Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds*

**Seventh Lesson**

Reader: Jerry Stovall

Angelus ad pastores ait *Rafaella Aleotti*

*Angelus ad pastores ait: annuntio vobis  
gaudium magnum,  
quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.'*  
Alleluia.

**Choir**

*The angel said to the shepherds: 'I bring you  
tidings of great joy,  
for the Saviour of the world has been born to  
you today.'*  
Alleluia.

Matthew 2:1-11

*The magi*

**Eighth Lesson**

Reader: John Palmer

*Please STAND*

**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.**

**Carol**

**2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's  
womb;  
very God  
begotten, not created.**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

**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:**

**4 Lo, star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and  
myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
bring our hearts' oblation.**

*Choir only*

5 Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and  
love:  
Who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?

**6 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven  
above;  
'Glory to God  
in the highest.'**

Latin, 18th century; translated, FREDERICK OAKLEY 1802-80 & others

*Please remain STANDING*

John 1:1-14

*The light of the world*

**Ninth Lesson**

Reader: Sue Eastaugh



*Please Sit*

The Sussex Carol Trad. Arr. Willcocks

**Choir**

*On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth  
news of our merciful King's birth,*

*Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad?*

*When from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before His grace,  
then life and health come in its place;*

*Angels and men with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:*

*"Glory to God and peace to men,  
now and for evermore. Amen!"*

**The Collect**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*Please KNEEL or SIT*

*In silence we pray for our world.*

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Please STAND*

**Carol**

**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.*

**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 the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n 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.**

CHARLES WESLEY 1707-88 & others

### **The Blessing**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward 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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please remain STANDING as the choir and ministers move in procession to the church door*

Festival Toccata *Percy Fletcher*

**Voluntary**

*Retiring collection for the work of the church – if you can, please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided or use the contactless machine at the back of the church.*

*You can also make a one-off gift by using this QR code:*



**Minister** The Rev'd Charlie Middleton

**Director of Music** Seb Gillot

**Choir** St Mary Magdalene

with Choral Scholars and Organ Scholars 2024-2025

# **Christmas**

## **at St Mary Magdalene**

*You are welcome at any of these Christmas services*

\* = especially suitable for children

### **Christmas Eve 24 December**

**3.00pm Christingle Service\***

**5.00pm Christingle Service\***

**11.30pm Midnight Mass**

### **Christmas Day 25 December**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**10.00am All Age Eucharist with Carols\***