

Lessons and Carols

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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Opening Sentences
Opening Hymn
Prayers of Intercession
Lessons and Carols
Closing Hymn
Blessing and Charge

This service of nine lessons and carols originates from a 1918 Christmas Eve service at King's College Chapel, University of Cambridge, England.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

GTG 133, PH 41

OPENING SENTENCES

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Ps. 96:1–2

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

OPENING HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

GTG 140, PH 49

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which has come to pass,
and the babe lying in a manger.
Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures
the tale of the loving purposes of God
from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child;
and let us make this house of prayer
glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
 let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world,
 and all his people;
 for peace upon the earth he came to save;
 for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
 for goodwill among all peoples.
 And particularly at this time, let us remember
 the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
 the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
 the aged and the little children;
 and all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or do not love him,
 or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.
 Lastly, let us remember 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 forevermore are one.
 These prayers and praises
 let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
 in the words that Christ himself has taught us: **Our Father . . .**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

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| 1 | <i>Adam and Eve disobey God</i>
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" | Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19
GTG 121, PH 43/44 |
| 2 | <i>God's promise to Abraham</i>
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" | Genesis 22:15–18
GTG 88, PH 9 |
| 3 | <i>A great light in the darkness</i>
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" | Isaiah 9:2, 6–7
GTG 123, PH 38 |
| 4 | <i>A little child will lead them</i>
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | Isaiah 11:1–4a, 6–9
GTG 129, PH 48 |
| 5 | <i>An angel appears to Mary</i>
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" | Luke 1:26–35, 38
GTG 119/127, PH 31 |
| 6 | <i>Mary gives birth in Bethlehem</i>
"Away in a Manger" | Luke 2:1–7
GTG 114/115, PH 24/25 |
| 7 | <i>Angels announce the Messiah</i>
"Angels We Have Heard on High" | Luke 2:8–16
GTG 113, PH 23 |
| 8 | <i>Magi come from the East</i>
"We Three Kings of Orient Are" | Matthew 2:1–11
GTG 151, PH 66 |
| 9 | <i>And the Word became flesh</i>
"Silent Night, Holy Night" | John 1:1–14
GTG 122, PH 60 |

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World!”

GTG 134, PH 40

BLESSING AND CHARGE

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 Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Alleluia!**

Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.