



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27 9:00 AM

Prerecorded at Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Introduction and Welcome *The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat*

Opening Hymn 102 *Once in royal David's city*

Bidding Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 this Holy Child; and let us make our community glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which Christ 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 Christ's name the poor and 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 evermore are one.

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

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 Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

Carol

Ding Dong! Merrily on high

16th century French tune

Harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

First Lesson
Genesis 3:1-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head



Carol

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Anon., 18th century

Second Lesson
Genesis 22: 15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed

Carol

Love came down at Christmas

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Third Lesson
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

Carol

O come, divine Messiah

16th Century French carol
Arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Fourth Lesson
Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

Hymn 81

Lo, how the Rose e'er blooming

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Fifth Lesson
Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary



Carol

A maiden most gentle

Traditional French
Arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1930)

Sixth Lesson
Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Carol

A babe is born all of a may

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Seventh Lesson
Luke 2:8-20

The shepherd's go the manger



Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly

Polish carol

Arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Eighth Lesson
Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus



Carol

The three kings

Peter Cornelius,

Arr. Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

Ninth Lesson
John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery on the Incarnation

Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Collect and Blessing

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May he, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, 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. **Amen.**