

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Kingston, Ontario



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

HYMN

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

The Bidding Prayer

First Lesson: Genesis iii

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

Carol: *Adam Lay Ybounden*

-Boris Ord

Second Lesson: Genesis xxii

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

Carol: *Huron Carol*

Third Lesson: Isaiah ix

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

HYMN

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway

This blessed Babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah xi

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

HYMN

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.

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.

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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel

Fifth Lesson: St Luke I

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

-H. Darke

Sixth Lesson: St Luke ii

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol: *What is this Lovely Fragrance*

-H. Willan

Seventh Lesson – St Luke ii

The Shepherds go to the manger.

HYMN

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

Eighth Lesson – St Matthew ii

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol: *The Three Kings*
Personent hodie

- arr I. Cornelius
- arr. G. Holst

Carol: *Good King Wenceslas*

- arr D. Willcocks

HYMN

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets

promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing:
all dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Ninth Lesson - St John i

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

HYMN

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

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

Lo! star-led chieftains,
magi, Christ adoring,
offer him frankincense and gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest'.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit**

The Bishop: Let us pray.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.
Amen

The Blessing

HYMN

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!'

Christ, by highest heaven 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!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen 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.

The Rt. Rev'd Michael Oulton - Bishop of Ontario

The Ven. David Selzer – Interim Dean

Brad Barbeau – Interim Director of Music

Matthew Larkin – Organist

Choristers: Tania Fifield, Megan Bruce, Alan Bronskill, Phil Rogers

Katriona Lane, Rachel Bearse, George Turcotte, David Pike