

# **A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Derived from the service used at King's College in  
Cambridge since 1918

## **Opening Prayer - Renee**

## **Carol: Once in David's Royal City - Spencer**

1 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.

2 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 Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

4 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.  
Then like stars his children crowned,  
all in white, his praise will sound.

## First Lesson - Jonathan Robie

**Genesis 3:8–15; 17–19 NRSV**

***God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.***

**8** 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. **9** But the Lord God called to the man and said

to him, "Where are you?" **10** He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." **13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." **14** The 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.

**15** I 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.”

**17** And 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;

**18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

**19** By 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.”

## **Carol: #254 Voices Together**

Oh, How Joyfully - Jonathan Robie

## **Second Lesson - Renee**

### **Genesis 22:15–18 NRSV**

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

**15** The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I 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, **18** and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**Carol: #214 Voices Together**

Savior of the Nations, Come - Spencer

**Carol: #265 Voices Together**

Angels From the Realms of Glory - Spencer

**[Third Lesson](#) - Renee**

**Isaiah 9:2; 6–7 NRSV**

***The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.***

**2** 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.

**6** For 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.

**7** Great will be his authority,

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.

**Carol: #245 Voices Together**

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem - Joanna

**Carol: #248 Voices Together**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear - Joanna

## Fourth Lesson - Spencer

### Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9 NRSV

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

**1** A shoot shall come out  
from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**2** The 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.

**3** His 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,

**4** but with righteousness

he shall judge for the poor

and decide with equity

for the oppressed of the earth;

**6** The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,

and a little child shall lead them.

**7** The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

**8** The nursing child shall play

over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall  
put its hand on the adder's den.

- 9** They 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.

**Carol: #189 Blue Hymnal**

To Us a Child of Hope is Born - Spencer

**Carol: #216 Voices Together**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - Spencer

## Fifth Lesson - Joy

### **Gospel of Luke 1: 26–35; 38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your

womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He 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. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34** Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** The 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.

**38** Then 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.

## **Carol: #221 Voices Together - Joanna**

The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed

### **Sixth Lesson - Kathy**

#### **Luke 2: 1; 3–7 NRSV**

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**1** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

**3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were

there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And 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 in the guest room.

**Carol: #249 Voices Together** - Joanna

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Carol: #247 Voices Together** - Joanna

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

**Seventh Lesson Luke 2: 8–16 NRSV**

**(Eddith in her own language on Zoom)**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

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

**15** When 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.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

**Carol: #250 Voices Together - Joanna**

The First Noel

**Carol: #244 Voices Together - Joanna**

Silent Night

**[Eighth Lesson](#) - Glenn**

**Gospel of Matthew 2: 1–12 NRSV**

***The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.***

**1** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” **3**

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They 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.’ ”

**7** Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then 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.” **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On 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. **12** And having

been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol: #267 Voices Together - Joanna**

What Child Is This

**Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are - Joanna**

1 We three kings of Orient are;

bearing gifts we traverse afar,

field and fountain, moor and mountain,

following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;

sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

5 Glorious now behold him arise;

King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

## [Ninth Lesson](#) - Jonathan Nice

### **Gospel of John 1:1–14**

***St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.***

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And 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.

**Carol: #241 Voices Together**

Oh Come All Ye Faithful - Jonathan Robie

**Congregational Blessing - Spencer**

**Carol: #240 Voices Together**

**Joy to the World - Spencer**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let Earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns

Let all their songs employ

While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow

Nor thorns infest the ground

He comes to make his blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found

Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love

And wonders of His love

And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let Earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing