

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of the Holy Trinity
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN**



THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

15.30

IN THIS SERVICE the story of the Fall and of our Redemption is re-told through readings from the Bible and the singing of carols. We recall the promises of God given to the Old Testament prophets and their fulfilment in the birth of Jesus Christ. In heart and mind we too go to Bethlehem, to see and adore with the Shepherds and the Wise Men. The climax of the service is reached in the Ninth Lesson when the meaning of Christ's birth is unfolded in Saint John's description of the Word made flesh. This service complements the Advent Procession sung on Advent Sunday. It directs our mind towards the wondrous events of the Incarnation and prepares us for the Midnight Eucharist sung on Christmas Eve.

Please SIT for the carols and motets and the Lessons, STAND for the hymns, and the bidding prayer, and join heartily in all those parts of the service printed in **bold type**.

Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off.



*To use the induction loop system provided
please turn your Hearing Aid to the T position.*

This year, the lessons are read by renowned Irish poet, Jane Clarke.

Following the service, all are invited to the crypt for refreshments.

*Please stand in silence as the choirs and clergy process to the West End.
A solo chorister begins the service with the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', then the
choir sings the second verse and the choir and congregation sing the remaining verses.*

Processional 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.**

Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1805-76)
harmonised by A. H. Mann (1850-1929)
arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-95)

Please remain standing

THE BIDDING PRAYER

BELOVED IN CHRIST, at this Christmas-tide 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 to see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore 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.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city of Dublin.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath 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,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

May 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.**

Please sit

CAROL

O Rex Gentium et desideratus earum
O King of the Nations and their desire
La pisque angularis qui facis utraque unum.
The cornerstone making both one
Veni et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.
Come and save the human race which you fashioned from clay.

Matthew Martin (b.1976)

O Antiphon, 9th Century

THE FIRST LESSON - GENESIS 3: 8-15

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

CAROL

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 clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavnè queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was;
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Anonymous, 15th century

CAROL

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of Nature fruitless be
compared with Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all, but now I
see, 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will
be of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

Elizabeth Poston (1907-1987)

anon., Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire

THE SECOND LESSON - GENESIS 22: 15-18

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

CAROL

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.

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 new-born King.

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?

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.'

Traditional English Carol
Arranged by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

Traditional English

Please stand

HYMN

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.

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.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
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.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore.
Evermore and evermore.

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.

Tune: Corde natus ex parentis
Piae Cantiones, Grieswald, 1582

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (c. 348–413)
trans. R.F. Davis (1866–1937)

Please sit

THE THIRD LESSON - ISAIAH 9: 2, 6–7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

CAROL

Lowly, laid in a manger,
with oxen brooding nigh,
the heavenly babe is lying
his maiden mother by.

Lo, the way-faring sages,
who journeyed far through the wild
now worship, silent, adoring
the boy, the heavenly child!

Leave your work and your playtime,
and kneel in homage and prayer,
the Prince of Love is smiling
asleep in his cradle there.

John Ireland (1879–1962)

Bend your heart to the wonder,
the birth, the mystery mild,
and worship, silent, adoring,
the boy, the heavenly child.

Dim the light of the lantern,
and bare the mean abode,
yet gold and myrrh and incense
proclaim the Son of God.

Lowly, laid in a manger
by virgin undefiled,
come worship, silent, adoring,
the boy, the heavenly child.

Herbert S. Brown

THE FOURTH LESSON - ISAIAH 11: 1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

CAROL

A babe is born all of a may
To bring salvation unto us
To him we sing both night and day
Veni Creator Spiritus!

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was,
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas!

There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine!

The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine!

William Matthias (1934-1992)

Anonymous, 15th Century

Please stand

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 tonight.**

**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.**

Tune: Forest Green

English traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)
and Thomas Armstrong (b.1898)

CHOIR ONLY

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 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)

Please sit

THE FIFTH LESSON - ST LUKE 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

CAROL

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady,' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-
'Most highly favoured lady,' Gloria!

Philip Moore (b.1943)

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

THE SIXTH LESSON - ST. MATTHEW 1: 18-23

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

CAROL

He bare him up, he bare him down,
He bare him into an orchard brow,
Lully, lullay, lully, lullay,
The falcon hath borne my make away.

In that orchard there was an hall,
That has hanged with purple and pall.
And in that hall there was a bed,
It was hanged with gold so red.
Lully, lullay, lully, lullay,
The falcon hath borne my make away.

In that bed there lieth a knight,
His woundes bleeding, day and night,
By that beside kneeleth a may,
And she weepeth both night and day.

Lully, lullay, lully, lullay,
The falcon hath borne my make away.

And by that beside there standeth a stone,
Corpus Christi written thereon.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

anon., 15th century

Please stand

HYMN

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wheresoever it went:

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presènce
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Tune: The First Nowell
English third mode melody
Harmony by John Stainer (1840-1901)

Traditional

Please sit

THE SEVENTH LESSON - ST. LUKE 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?

Our Saviour Christ and His lady,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

Pray whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

And all the angels in Heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

And all the souls on Earth shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;

Philip Marshall (1921-2005)

Traditional
Please stand

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,
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,
Christ the Lord.**

**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?
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,
Christ the Lord**

J.F. Wade (1711-86)
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Latin 18th Century
tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-82)
Please sit

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

CAROL

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) arr. John Rutter (1945)

Placide Cappeau (1808-1877)

Please stand

THE NINTH LESSON - ST JOHN 1: 1-14

read by the Archbishop

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

The Archbishop The Lord be with you.
Response **and also with you.**

THE COLLECT OF CHRISTMAS EVE

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 th' 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.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heav'n-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.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.*

Tune: *Christmas*, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47)
arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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 for the procession of choir and clergy and sit for the

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Final from *Symphonie I* Louis Vierne (1870–1937)