A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, 20 December 2020 18.00 (Streamed Online via Zoom)



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CAROL: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

- 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 Saviour holy.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms. 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 glad this church with our carols of praise: But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, the nations of the world and the City of Vienna: And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God. 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 we for evermore are one. 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, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. 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.

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL (O COME, O COME EMMANUEL)

Johanna Cabili-Reuss (vocals), Robert S. Kinney (synthesizer)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LESSON 1: GENESIS 3.8-15 (The Fall)

Biblical Hebrew (Robert S. Kinney)

⁸ וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת־קוֹל יהוה אֱלֹהִים מִתְהַלֵּךְ בַּגָּן לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם וַיִּתְחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יהוה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹדְ עֵץ הַגָּן:

- ַרְיּחוּ אַ זְּ סַגָּוּ. נְיָקְרָא יהוה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הָאָדָם וַיּאֹמֶר לוֹ אַיֶּכָּה:
- ויאָמָר אָת־לְלְדָ שֶׁמַעְתִּי בַּגָּן וָאִירָא כִּי־עֵירֹם אָנֹכִי וָאָחָבַא: ¹⁰
- ויאמר מִי הִגִּיד לְדָ כִּי עֵירִם אָתָה הָמִן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוּיִתִידְ לְבָלְתִי אֲכָל־מִמֶּנוּ אָכָלְתָ: 11
 - רא נָתְנָה־לִי מָן־הָעֵץ וָאבל: 12 וַיֹאמֶר הָאָדָם הָאָשָׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עַמָדִי הוא נָתְנָה־לִי מָן־הָעֵץ וָאבל:
- ¹³ וַיּאֹמֶר יהוה אֱלהִים לָאִשָּׁה מַה־זּאת עַשִּׂית וַתּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הַנָּחָשׁ הִשִּׁיאַנִי וָאֹכֵל
- ¹⁴ וַיּאֹמֶר יהוה אֱלהִים אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ כִּי עֲשִׂיתָ זּאׄת אָרוּר אַתָּה מִכָּל־הַבְּהַמָה וּמִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה עַל־ גְּחֹנָד תַלַד וְעָפָר תּאכַל כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֶּידָ:

¹⁵ וְאֵיכָה אָשִׁית בֵּינְה וּבֵין הָאִשָּׁה וּבֵין זַרְעֲה וּבֵין זַרְעָה הוּא יְשׁוּפְד ראש וְאַתָּה תְּשׁוּפָנוּ עָקֵב

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.'

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Carole Alston (vocals), Peter Kyriakos (saxophone), Asen Mihaylov (drums), Martin Melzer (bass), Robert S. Kinney (piano)

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lie he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians cheer for sinners here The Word of God is bleeding: Nails, spear, shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you: hail, hail, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him gold, incense, and myrrh, Come peasant King, to own him, the King of kings salvation brings, let every loving arms enfold him: Hail, hail the song on high the Virgin sings her lullaby, hail, hail, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

LESSON 2: GENESIS 22.15-18 (The Promise of Abraham)

Latin Vulgate (Gabriel Byng)

¹⁵Vocavit autem angelus Domini Abraham secundo de caelo, dicens: ¹⁶Per memetipsum juravi, dicit Dominus: quia fecisti hanc rem, et non pepercisti filio tuo unigenito propter me: ¹⁷ benedicam tibi, et multiplicabo semen tuum sicut stellas caeli, et velut arenam quae est in littore maris: possidebit semen tuum

portas inimicorum suorum, ¹⁸ et benedicentur in semine tuo omnes gentes terrae, quia obedisti voci meae.

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: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

- Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: *Come and worship Christ the new-born King, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.*
- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light: Come and worship Christ the new-born King, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.
- Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of Nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship Christ the new-born King, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.

4 Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill his Father's throne, gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down: Come and worship Christ the new-born King, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.

LESSON 3: ISAIAH 9.2, 6-7 (The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth)

Luther's German (Hannes Antonschmidt)

¹ Das Volk, das im Finstern wandelt, sieht ein großes Licht, und über denen, die da wohnen im finstern Lande, scheint es hell. ... ⁵ Denn uns ist ein Kind geboren, ein Sohn ist uns gegeben, und die Herrschaft ist auf seiner Schulter; und er heißt Wunder-Rat, Gott-Held, Ewig-Vater, Friede-Fürst; ⁶ auf dass seine Herrschaft groß werde und des Friedens kein Ende auf dem Thron Davids und in seinem Königreich, dass er's stärke und stütze durch Recht und Gerechtigkeit von nun an bis in Ewigkeit. Solches wird tun der Eifer des HERRN Zebaoth.

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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

UN FLAMBEAU, JEANETTE, ISABELLE (BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE ISABELLA)

Rosie Evans (clarinet and vocals), Joan Avery-Zedlacher (violin and vocals), Charlotte Wiggins (flute), Keziah Sheldon (cello)

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella Bring a torch, come swiftly and run. Christ is born, tell the folk of the village; Jesus is sleeping in His cradle. Ah, ah, beautiful is the Mother; Ah, ah, beautiful is her Son.

Hasten now, good folk of the village; Hasten now the Christ Child to see. You will find Him asleep in the manger; Quietly come and whisper softly, Hush! hush! Peacefully now He slumbers. Hush! hush! Peacefully now He sleeps.

LESSON 4: ISAIAH 11.1-9 (The Prophecy of the Messiah's Kingdom of Peace) *Wycliffe's English (Melinda May)*

¹ And a rod shall go out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall ascend (out) of the root of it.² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of strength, the spirit of knowing and of piety; ³ and the spirit of the dread of the Lord shall fill him. He shall deem not by the sight of eyes, neither he shall reprove, either convict, by the hearing of ears; (and the spirit of the fear of the Lord shall fill him/and the spirit of reverence for the Lord shall fill him. He shall not judge by the sight of his eves, nor shall he rebuke, or convict, by the hearing of his ears;)⁴ but he shall deem in rightfulness poor men, and he shall reprove in equity, for the mild men of [the] earth. And he shall smite the land with the rod of his mouth, and with the spirit of his lips he shall slay the wicked man. (but he shall judge the poor with justice, and he shall rebuke the meek, or the humble, of the earth with equity, or with fairness. And he shall strike the land with the rod of his mouth, and he shall kill the wicked with the spirit of his lips.)⁵ And rightfulness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faith shall be the girding of his reins. (And justice shall be the belt about his loins, and faith shall be his girdle.)⁶ A wolf shall dwell with a lamb, and a leopard shall rest with a kid; a calf, and a lion, and a sheep shall dwell together, and a little child shall drive them. (A wolf shall live with a lamb, and a leopard shall rest with a goat kid; a calf, and a lion, and a sheep shall all live together, and a little child shall drive, or shall direct, them.) ⁷ A calf and a bear shall be pastured together; the whelps of them shall rest (together), and a lion as an ox shall eat straw (and a lion shall eat straw like an ox).⁸ And a young sucking child from the teat shall delight on the hole of a snake, and he that is weaned shall put his hand in the cave of the cockatrice.⁹ They shall not annoy, and shall not slay, in all mine holy hill; for why the earth is filled with the knowing of the Lord, as [the] waters of the sea covering. (They shall not

harm, and shall not kill, on all my holy hill; for the land shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, like the waters fill the sea.)

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Peter Kyriakos (saxophone), Asen Mihaylov (drums), Martin Melzer (bass), Robert S. Kinney (piano)

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay! for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan's power when we had gone astray: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father a holy angel came; the shepherds saw the glory and heard the voice proclaim that Christ was born in Bethlehem and Jesus is his name: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

'Fear not,' then said the angel, 'let nothing cause you fright; to you is born a Saviour in David's town tonight, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might:' *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

The shepherds at these tidings rejoiced in heart and mind,

and on the darkened hillside they left their flocks behind, and went to Bethlehem straightway this holy Child to find: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

And when to Bethlehem they came, where Christ the infant lay, they found him in a manger where oxen fed on hay; and there beside her new-born child his mother knelt to pray: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all people in this place; with Christian love and fellowship each other now embrace, and let this Christmas festival all bitterness displace: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!*

LESSON 5: ISAIAH 60.1-6, 19 (The Coming of the Glory of the Lord) *Tamil (Rose Samuel)*

¹ எழும்பிப் பிரகாசி; உன் ஒளி வந்தது, கர்த்தருடைய மகிமை உன்மேல் உதித்தது.

² இதோ, இருள் பூமியையும், காரிருள் ஜனங்களையும் மூடும்; ஆனாலும் உன்மேல் கர்த்தர் உதிப்பார்; அவருடைய மகிமை உன்மேல் காணப்படும். ³ உன் வெளிச்சத்தினிடத்துக்கு ஜாதிகளும், உதிக்கிற உன் ஒளியினிடத்துக்கு ராஜாக்களும் நடந்து வருவார்கள்.

⁴ சுற்றிலும் உன் கண்களை ஏறெடுத்துப்பார்; அவர்கள் எல்லாரும் ஏகமாய்க்கூடி உன்னிடத்திற்கு வருகிறார்கள்; உன் குமாரர் தூரத்திலிருந்து வந்து, உன் குமாரத்திகள் உன் பக்கத்திலே வளர்க்கப்படுவார்கள்.

⁵ அப்பொழுது நீ அதைக் கண்டு ஓடிவருவாய்; உன் இருதயம் அதிசயப்பட்டுப் பூரிக்கும்; கடற்கரையின் திரளான கூட்டம் உன் வசமாகத் திரும்பும், ஜாதிகளின் பலத்த சேனை உன்னிடத்துக்கு வரும்.

⁶ ஒட்டகங்களின் ஏராளமும், மீதியான் ஏப்பாத் தேசங்களின் வேகமான ஒட்டகங்களும் உன்னை மூடும்; சேபாவிலுள்ளவர்கள் யாவரும் பொன்னையும் தூபவர்க்கத்தையும் கொண்டுவந்து, கர்த்தரின் துதிகளைப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்துவார்கள்.

¹⁹ இனிச் தூரியன் உனக்குப் பகலிலே வெளிச்சமாயிராமலும், சந்திரன் தன் வெளிச்சத்தால் உனக்குப் பிரகாசியாமலும், கர்த்தரே உனக்கு நித்திய வெளிச்சமும், உன் தேவனே உனக்கு மகிமையுமாயிருப்பார்.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. ... ¹⁹ The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

CAROL: JOY TO THE WORLD

- 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.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour 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.
- ³ 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.

LESSON 6: LUKE 2.1-7 (Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus) *Yoruba (Emmanuel Adevimi)*

¹ Ó sì şe ní ojó wo n-on-nì, àşe ti o do Kesari Augustu jáde wá pé, kí a ko orúko gbogbo ayé sínú ìwé. ² (Èyí ni ìko sínú ìwé èkínní tí a şe nígbà tí Kirene fi je baále Siria.) ³ Gbogbo àwon ènìyàn sì lo láti ko orúko won sínú ìwé, onikalùkù sí ìlú ara re. ⁴ Josefu na sì gòkè láti Nasareti ni Galili, lo sí ìlú Dafidi ní Judea, tí à ń pè ní Betilehemu; nítorí pe ìran àti ìdílé Dafidi ní í şe, ⁵ láti ko orúko re, pe lú Maria aya re àfésónà, tí oyún re ti tó lati bí. ⁶ Ó sì şe, nígbà tí wón wà níbe, ojó re pé tí òun yóò bímo. ⁷ Ó sì bí àkóbí re omokùnrin, ó sì fi o já wé e, ó sì té e sínú ibùje eran; nítorí tí pe ààyè kò sí fún won nínú ilé èrò.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴Joseph 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 for them in the inn.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Rosie Evans (clarinet), Joan Avery-Zedlacher (violin), Charlotte Wiggins (flute), Keziah Sheldon (cello)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

LESSON 7: LUKE 2.8-16 (The Shepherds Go to the Manger)

Spanish (Veronica Wiesner)

⁸ En esa misma región había pastores que pasaban la noche en el campo cuidando a sus rebaños. ⁹ Allí un ángel del Señor se les apareció, y el resplandor de la gloria del Señor los envolvió. Ellos se llenaron de temor, ¹⁰ pero el ángel les dijo: «No teman, que les traigo una buena noticia, que será para todo el pueblo motivo de mucha alegría. ¹¹ Hoy, en la ciudad de David, les ha nacido un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor. ¹² Esto les servirá de señal: Hallarán al niño envuelto en pañales y acostado en un pesebre.» ¹³ En ese momento apareció, junto con el ángel, una multitud de las huestes celestiales, que alababan a Dios y decían: ¹⁴ «¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas! ¡Paz en la tierra a todos los que gozan

de su favor!» ¹⁵ Cuando los ángeles volvieron al cielo, los pastores se dijeron unos a otros: «Vayamos a Belén, y veamos esto que ha sucedido, y que el Señor nos ha dado a conocer.» ¹⁶ Así que fueron de prisa, y hallaron a María y a José, y el niño estaba acostado en el pesebre.

⁸ In that 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 Saviour, 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 favours!' 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.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Carole Alston (vocals), Peter Kyriakos (saxophone), Asen Mihaylov (drums), Martin Melzer (bass), Robert S. Kinney (piano)

Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

When the world lay pining In sin and in dismay The Lord God sent a Saviour And he showed us all the way Go and shout it from the mountain Over the hills and everywhere Go out and tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

Well, it was in a lowly manger That Jesus Christ was born The angels shouted 'hallelujah' That first Christmas morn Go and tell it on the mountain top Over the hills and everywhere Go out and tell it from the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

When I was a seeker I sought both night and day I asked the Lord to help me And he showed me the way ... on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere Go and tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

LESSON 8: MATTHEW 2.1-11 (The Magi Are Led by a Star...)

Koine Greek (Benjamin O'Neill)

¹ Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλέεμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἐν ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ίδοὺ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ² λέγοντες· Ποῦ ἐστιν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἴδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῆ ἀνατολῆ καὶ ἤλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ. ³ ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς Ἡρώδης έταράχθη καὶ °πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ' αὐτοῦ, ⁴ καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς άρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ ἐπυνθάνετο παρ' αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται. 5 οἱ δὲ εἶπαν αὐτῷ· Ἐν Βηθλέεμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτως γὰρ γέγραπται διὰ τοῦ προφήτου· 6 Καὶ σὺ Βηθλέεμ, γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ήγεμόσιν Ιούδα έκ σοῦ γὰρ έξελεύσεται ήγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ. ⁷ Τότε Ἡρώδης λάθρα καλέσας τοὺς μάγους ἠκρίβωσεν παρ' αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος, ⁸ καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλέεμ εἶπεν· Πορευθέντες ἐξετάσατε ἀκριβῶς² περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· ἐπὰν δὲ εὕρητε, άπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως κἀγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῶ. ⁹ οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ, ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, προῆγεν αὐτούς, ἕως ἐλθὼν ἐστάθη ἐπάνω 'οὖ ἦν τὸ παιδίον. ¹⁰ ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα έχάρησαν χαράν μεγάλην σφόδρα. 11 και έλθόντες είς την οικίαν είδον το παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ καὶ άνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῶ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When 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."⁷⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men 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." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, 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.

STILLE NACHT (SILENT NIGHT)

Rosie Evans (clarinet), Keziah Sheldon (cello), Robert S. Kinney (piano)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright round the virgin and her child: holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quail at the sight, glory streams from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia, Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!'

Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light: radiant beams your holy face with the dawn of saving grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

LESSON 9: JOHN 1.1-14 (The Incarnation of the Word of God)

Modern English (Mike Waltner)

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 overcome 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.

CANTIQUE DE NOËL (O HOLY NIGHT)

Johanna Cabili-Reuss (vocals), Asen Mihaylov (drums), Martin Melzer (bass), Robert S. Kinney (piano)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth Long lay the world in sin and error, pining 'Til 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, o, hear the angels' voices O night divine, o night, when Christ was born O night divine, o night, o night divine. 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 Fall on your knees, o, hear the angels' voices O night divine, o night, when Christ was born O night divine, o night, o night divine.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

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 Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness 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.

CAROL: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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, Christ the Lord! 2 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, Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

5 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, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

6 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!

POSTLUDE

Noël "Quand Jésus naquit à Noël" — Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

WITH GREAT THANKS TO

Chaplain and Officiant: Revd Canon Patrick Curran *Technical Support*: Rosie Evans and Robert S. Kinney *Videography*: Ben Dannenmeier

Readers: Emmanuel Adeyimi Hannes Antonschmidt Gabriel Byng Robert S. Kinney Melinda May Benjamin O'Neill Rose Samuel Mike Waltner Veronica Wiesner Musicians: Carole Alston (voice) Joan Avery-Zedlacher (violin and voice) Johanna Cabili-Reuss (voice) Andrew Couse (organ) Rosie Evans (clarinet and voice) Robert S. Kinney (piano and synthesizer) Peter Kyriakos (tenor saxophone) Martin Melzer (bass) Asen Mihaylov (drums) Keziah Sheldon (cello) Charlotte Wiggins (flute)

JOIN US FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tuesday, December 22 *Christmas Readings, Carols, and Glogg* at 19.00 (on Zoom)

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Kid's Church *Christmas Service* for Families at 16.00 Streamed and In-Person *Midnight Mass* at 22.45

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day) In-Person *Service of Holy Communion* at 9.00 Streamed and In-Person *Service of Holy Communion* at 10.30

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Currently we are not taking a collection during any of the services in the church building, because of Covid-19 restrictions. We ask those of you who would otherwise make your donations to Christ Church to consider setting up regular standing orders or some other electronic means of contributing. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.

For more information about Christ Church, visit us at: www.christchurchvienna.org