

Christmas Eve

at

Parkade Baptist Church



About A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was conducted at King's College, Cambridge, England on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was introduced by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the College, whose experience as a chaplain in the Royal Army during World War I led him to believe that a more creative way of sharing the Biblical story of God's redemption was needed in worship. However, there is an often-repeated story that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve.

With the exception of 1930, this service has been broadcasted live since 1928 by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). During the years of World War II, the service and the broadcast continued even though there was no heat in the chapel because the stained glass was removed due to fear of bombing raids. For security reasons the name "King's College" was omitted during wartime broadcasts.

The service at King's College begins each Christmas Eve promptly as the sun sets at 3 PM in England. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners who listen to the live broadcast of the BBC annually. In addition to the worldwide broadcast King's College has received reports of the service being celebrated as far as the West Indies and the Far East. Truly the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has become a Christmas Eve tradition celebrated by many Christians around the world.

Starting in the book of Genesis with the story of the fall of humanity, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols traces the story of God's redemption through the prophetic books highlighting the promise of the Messiah. The service culminates with readings from the Gospels with the last reading selected from John 1 where John reveals the true identity of Jesus Christ. He was God in flesh, born into this world to reveal God to us. John gives this promise: "to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13).

The simplicity of the scripture readings coupled with traditional Christmas carols is designed to create an atmosphere of reverence, respect and awe for God's work of redemption. It is our hope and prayer that tonight's service will renew your appreciation for what God has done through Jesus Christ. If you have never embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, it is our hope and prayer that as you listen to the scripture readings and the carols, you will feel the compelling force of God's love, calling you into a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Worship

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2020 — 5:00 PM

Words of Welcome — Pastor

Opening Carol — *Once in Royal David's City*

Opening Remarks and Congregational Lord's Prayer

"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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

First Lesson from Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19 — Jennifer Cook

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

Congregational Carol — *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Second Lesson from Genesis 22:15-18 — Aaron Kruse

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

Congregational Carol — *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Third Lesson from Isaiah 9:2; 6-7 — Janie Bohon

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Vocal Meditation — *I Have Seen the Light* — Bob Bohon

Fourth Lesson from Isaiah 11:1-3; 4; 6-9 — Rick Sanders

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Congregational Carol — *All Is Well*

Fifth Lesson from Luke 1:26-35; 38 — Graham Fizer

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Vocal and Guitar Mediation —*Mary Did You Know*— Julie Blaylock and Sandi Straw

Sixth Lesson from Luke 2:1; 3-7 — Todd Jarman

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Congregational Carol — *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Seventh Lesson from Luke 2:8-16— Tracey Jarman

The shepherds go to the manger.

Congregational Carol — *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Eighth Lesson from Matthew 2:1-12 — Todd Straw

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Vocal Meditation — *O Holy Night*— Keeley Fizer and Sandi Straw

Ninth Lesson from John 1:1-14 — Chris Cook

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Congregational Carol — *Silent Night*

Benediction

Closing Carol — *O Come All Ye Faithfull*

Once in Royal David's City

VERSE 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.

VERSE 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.

VERSE 3

Jesus 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 feels for our sadness,
And He shares in our gladness.

VERSE 4

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.

O Come O Come Emmanuel

VERSE 1

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

VERSE 3

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

VERSE 4

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind

Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

VERSE 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of ev'ry nation
Joy of ev'ry longing heart

VERSE 2

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

All Is Well

VERSE 1

All is well all is well
Angels and men rejoice
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light
Sing alle sing alleluia

VERSE 2

All is well all is well
Let there be peace on earth
Christ is come go and tell
That He is in the manger
Sing alle sing alleluia

VERSE 3

All is well all is well
Lift up your voice and sing
Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing alleluia sing alleluia
All is well

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

VERSE 1

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger
There He lay the undefiled
To the world a stranger
Such a babe in such a place
Can He be the Savior
Ask the saved of ev'ry race
Who have found His favor

VERSE 2

Angels sang about His birth
Wise men sought and found Him
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight
Heard the angels singing
All the plains were lit that night
All the hills were ringing

VERSE 3

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger He is still the undefiled
But no more a stranger
Son of God of humble birth
Beautiful the story
Praise His name in all the earth
Hail the King of glory
Hail the King of glory

Angels We Have Heard On High

VERSE 1

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

VERSE 2

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Angels We Have Heard On High (con't.)

VERSE 3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

VERSE 4

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

CHORUS

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Silent Night

VERSE 1

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

VERSE 2

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

VERSE 3

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Christ the Savior is born

O Come All Ye Faithful

VERSE 1

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

CHORUS

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

VERSE 2

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest

CHORUS

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

VERSE 3

Yea Lord we greet
Thee Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

CHORUS

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

