



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Trinity College Chapel
Kandy**

04 December 2022

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

“A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” was based on an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for the use in a wooden shed that served as his cathedral, for Christmas Eve 1880 in Truro. It has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

A. C. Benson recalled: ‘My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop’.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services particularly in the UK, and especially at King's College Cambridge, where it is famously held every year.

Wherever the service is held and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and the strength of the service derive from the lessons as much as the music. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God through the words of the Bible. The centre of the service is found by those who ‘go in heart and mind’ and who consent to follow where the story leads.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, therefore, is not intended to be a ‘performance’ for the congregation, but much rather an inspiration to worship in celebrating the wonder of God’s incarnation as a human.

At Trinity College Kandy there are records of Carol services from 1935.

The “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” was held for the first time in 1958. The tradition continues largely unchanged up to today.

A Sinhala carol and Tamil carol were introduced to the order of service in 1964.

The Carol Service, in Advent, has been held for over 80 years at the Chapel, and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols itself has been celebrated for over 45 years at the Chapel of Trinity College Kandy.

This traditional act of celebration and thanksgiving at Trinity College, enriched and whole with meaning and memories, is held dearly in the hearts of many who await it every year.

Sources: Service order of King's College Cambridge, Trinity College Kandy Archives



Auditions for Choristerships are held during the 3rd week of January every year.

Please contact the Choirmaster for details
Email: choirmaster@trinitycollege.lk

PLEASE KEEP MOBILE PHONES SILENT AND REFRAIN FROM TALKING OR LEAVING YOUR SEAT OR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS TO AVOID DISTURBING THE SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Congregation will stand and join in the singing, while the Choir and Clergy process from the West Door to the Chancel.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Choir Only

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.

Words:

C. F. Alexander

Music:

H. J. Gauntlett

Arr: A. H. Mann

Choir Only

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.

Descant:

Stephen Cleobury

All

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.

*Congregation
Only*

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.

All

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.

All

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.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

The Congregation standing, shall be bidden to 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 and 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; unity, brotherhood and sisterhood within the church He came to build and especially in this our diocese.

And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, and the oppressed, languishing in prison, the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who love him not and 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 them that 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.***

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.***

The Congregation shall be seated.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

BORN ON A NEW DAY

*Words:
Peter Knight
1917- 85*

You are the new day.
Meekness, love, humility
Come down to us this day:
Christ, your birth has proved to me
You are the new day.

*Music: John David
b. 1946
Arr: Philip Lawson
b. 1957*

Quiet in a stall you lie,
Angels watching in the sky
Whisper to you from on high,
"You are the new day".

When our life is darkest night,
Hope has burned away;
Love, your ray of guiding light,
Show us the new day.

Love of all things great and small,
Leaving none, embracing all,
Fold around me where I fall,
Bring in the new day.

This new day will be
A turning point for everyone,
If we let the Christ-child in, and
Reach for the new day.

Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Healing sadness, ending strife;
You we welcome, Lord of life,
Born on a new day.
You are the new day.

FIRST LESSON: *Read by a Chorister*

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.
Genesis 3

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." And unto Adam He said, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it': cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

THE ONLY SON FROM HEAV'N

*Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn
Prelude BWV 601*

The only son from Heav'n
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere his light confining,
As He our morning star,

*J. S. Bach
1685-1750
Arr: John C. Martin*

The Congregation shall stand and join in singing:

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Words: Charles Wesley

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 every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Music: John Stainer

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
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

The Congregation shall be seated

SECOND LESSON: Read by the Senior Prefect

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

Genesis 22

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, "By myself have I sworn," saith the Lord, "for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

அந்தி நேரம்

அந்தி நேரம் வாடைக் காலம்
விந்தை இயேசு பாலன்
இந்தப்பாரில் ஏழையாக
வந்துதித்தார் ஆர்ப்பரிப்போம்

Traditional

Arr:

TCK Choir

கொண்டாடுவோம் விண் வேந்தனை என்றுமே
பண்பாடுவோம் ஆனந்த நாளிது

தீர்க்கர் சொன்ன வார்த்தை எல்லாம்
திடமாய் நிறைவுற இன்று
தாவிதூரில் பாலனாக
தேவமைந்தன் பிறந்தனரே

*In the evening of a frosty season
wonderful baby Jesus
To this poor world was born;
let us celebrate.*

*Let us rejoice in the heavenly King forever,
Sing praises, on this happy day*

*The prophets' words spoken,
were fulfilled today, when
In David's City
baby Jesus was born*

The Congregation shall stand and join in singing:

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

All God rest you merry, Gentlemen, *Traditional*
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.

All 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.

Women Only 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.

Men Only 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.

All 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 other doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The Congregation shall be seated.

THIRD LESSON: Read by an Old boy (Mr. Rustom Praesoody)

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. Isaiah 9

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

සුදමු ගීත මල්

සුදමු ගීත මල් -

- මාල ගොතාලා

කුචුතු ගුණැති යේසු බිලිඳු

Traditional

Arr:

TCK Choir

සුදමු සාදරෙන්

කුචුතු ගුණ වඩා - ලොවට සෙන සදා

සාමයේ රජා ලොවෙහි - අඳුර දුරු කලා

බැතිනි හද අපේ - සුදමු පා ඔබේ

ස්වර්ගයේ සැපා අපට - බෙදනු සමිඳුනේ

Worship with flowers of songs

Strung in garlands

Baby Jesus with goodness most high

Worship with love

Filling with goodness most high, blessed this world

The King of peace removed the darkness of the world

With adoration in our hearts, we worship your feet

Comforts of heaven, grant us portions O lord.

The Congregation shall stand and join in singing:

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

*Words:
J. M. Neale*

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

*Arr:
Reginald Jacques*

All

Choir only

'Hither page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

*Choir Only
(Old Chorister)*

'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'

All

Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Choir only

'Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'

(Old Chorister)

'Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

All

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

The Congregation shall be seated.

FOURTH LESSON: *Read by a Staff Member of the Junior School (Mrs. C.P.K. De Tissera)*

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. Isaiah 11

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

VIRGA JESSE

Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluja.

Words & Music:
Anton Bruckner
1824 - 1896

*The branch from Jesse blooms:
A Virgin brings forth God and man:
God restores peace,
Reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.
Alleluia.*

The Congregation shall remain seated

FIFTH LESSON: *Read by the Head Mistress of the Middle School*

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary. St. Luke 1

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

AVE GENEROSA

*Hildegard von Bingen
(1098 - 1179)*

Ave generosa gloriosa et intacta
puella, tu pupilla castitatis,
tu materia sanctitatis,
que Deo placuit

*Ola Gjeilo
b. 1978*

*Hail, nobly born, hail, honored and inviolate,
you Maiden are the piercing gaze of chastity,
you the material of holiness—
the one who pleased God.*

The Congregation shall remain seated

SIXTH LESSON: *Read by the Co-Vice Principal*

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. St. Luke 2

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

I SAW A MAIDEN

Old Basque Noel
S Baring-Gould
(1934-1924)

I saw a maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a child, a sweete lording

Arr: Edgar Pettman
(1865-1943)

Lullay. Lullay;
my dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay, lullay;
my dear heart , my own dear darling.

This very Lord he made alle thing:
Of lordes the Lord, of kinges the King.

There was mickle melody at that childes birth:
And all in heaven's bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels sang that night and saiden to that child:
Now blest be thou and she, both meek and mild.

Pray we to that child and to His mother dear,
His blessing to them that maken now cheer.

The Congregation shall remain seated

SEVENTH LESSON: *Read by the Vice Principal*

The shepherds go to the manger. St. Luke 2

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

The Congregation shall stand and sing without the Choir, during which a collection will be taken:

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

Words:
Nehum Tate

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

Music:
Este's Psalter

'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
The Saviour, 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 swaddling 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'.

The Congregation shall remain seated
Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC

Words:
Robert Herrick
1591-1674

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give this honour to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.
That sees December turn'd to May.

Music:
John Rutter
b. 1945

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born who's quick'ning birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who with His sunshine and His show'rs,
Turns the patient ground to flow'rs.
Turns all the patient ground to flow'rs.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room,
To welcome Him,
To welcome Him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.
What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King,

The Congregation shall remain seated

EIGHTH LESSON: *Read by the Principal*

***The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.* St. Matthew 2**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel'". Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Choir only: The Congregation shall remain seated.

THE THREE KINGS

*Tr. H.N. Bates
Arr. Ivor Atkins
1869-1953*

*Words & Music:
Peter Cornelius
1824-1874*

SOLO

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.
Offer thy heart.

CHORALE

How brightly shines the morning star!

With grace and truth from heaven afar

Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,

For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,

My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thy word, Thy word

Jesu, Jesu

Inly feeds us,

Rightly leads us,

Life bestowing.

Praise, O praise

such love o'erflowing

The Congregation shall join in the singing and remain standing at the end of this Carol

UNTO US IS BORN A SON

Tr. G. R. Woodward

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Tune from

Piae Cantiones, 1582

All

Arr:

David Willcocks

Choir Only

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be-cradled in a manger.

Men Only

This did Herod sore afray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Women Only

Of His love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory.

All

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

NINTH LESSON: *Read by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Kurunagala*

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. St. John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was Life; and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Congregation shall join in singing:

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Words:
Charles Wesley

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,
Ris'n 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.

Music:
Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Descant:
David Willcocks

Choir only: The Congregation shall be seated.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Words and Music:
John Rutter b. 1945*

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on His cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore Him,
Seraphim round Him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim Him their Lord and their Saviour,
And Mary will hold Him and sing Him to sleep.

Find Him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with His mother that first Christmas Day.

Find Him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with His mother that first Christmas Day

The congregation shall kneel.

BENEDICTION:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **Also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

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.**

THE BLESSING

May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness 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.**

THE RECESSIONAL

The Congregation shall stand and join in singing:

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Tr. F. Oakley

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,

Traditional 18th Cen.

All

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

Descant:

David Willcocks

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

Choir only

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

All

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?

All

See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

All

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest: