



The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



(The Nativity by William Blake 1757-1827)

The Priory Church, Bolton Abbey

*Sunday 19th December 2021
4.30 pm*

The History of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was created in 1880 by Edward White Benson, who served as the first Bishop of Truro from 1877 to 1883. The Service was initially housed in a temporary wooden building since Truro Cathedral was being constructed at the instigation of Bishop Benson. It continued to be held in the wooden structure for another six years before the cathedral building was completed. Following his term as Bishop of Truro, Edward Benson was inducted as Archbishop of Canterbury 1883.

In 1918, the Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, adapted the Service for use in the College's chapel for the first Christmas following the end of The Great War in 1918. Dean Milner-White also wrote the Bidding Prayer that we use to this day. The service was first broadcast in 1928, and is now sent out by the BBC to millions of people around the world every year, and has been ever since 1928, with the exception of only 1930.

For the first time in the history of Bolton Priory, this service is being live streamed for those unable to attend this Christmas

The Order of Service

Welcome to Bolton Priory

Rector My Brothers and sisters, in the name of Christ we welcome you to Bolton Priory.

We come together, as Christmas draws near, to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and join together in singing our praises with the heavenly host.

Voluntary

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern – Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707)

Introit

The Lamb - by Sir John Tavener (1944-2013)

The Acclamation

Rector Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

All he has come to his people and set them free.

Rector Light has sprung up for the righteous

All and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

Rector Glory to God in the highest

All and peace to his people on earth.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

.

Solo

*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.*

Choir

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.

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.

The Bidding

Rector My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent, we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 3: 8-14

Read by Mike Vineall, parishioner and head of the servers rota

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

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 shouldest 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."

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Psallite Unigento - Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Hymn

In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
A breast full of milk and a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Second Reading: Genesis 22: 15-18

Read by Liz Higgins, parishioner and member of the Liquid Worship team

The promise to Abraham

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

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Never a baby like Jesus - Noel Dexter (1938-2019)

Third Reading: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 and 7

Read by Clare Granger, parishioner

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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 for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Ave Maria – Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Fourth Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

Read by Christopher Ray, churchwarden

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore, will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now, shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall be the peace.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 to-night.

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.
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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Fifth Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Read by Charity Orvis, Headmistress of Boyle and Petyt Primary School

The Angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the Angel 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 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 shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; 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, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaiden of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came

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 lo, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, 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, Emanuel, 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!

Carol

Dormi Jesu – Sir John Rutter (b. 1945)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 1: 18-23

Read by Keith Nightingale, parishioner and Friend of Bolton Priory

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall

bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

Thanks be to God

Hymn

See amid the Winters Snow

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail thou ever blessed morn,
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim.

Hail thou ever blessed morn, etc

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

Hail thou ever blessed morn, etc

Sacred infant, all divine
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss,
Down to such a world as this!

Hail thou ever blessed morn, etc

Carol

The Shepherds' Farewell – Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Seventh Reading: Luke 2: 8-16

Read by Carol Ray, Parishioner and Spiritual Director in Training

The shepherds go to the manger

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 around 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 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.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

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,
Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns.
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
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.

Eighth Reading: Matthew 2: 1-11

Read by Paul Middleton, choir member, PCC member and concert director

The Magi are led by the stars to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea 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 Judaea." For thus it is written by the prophet, "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired 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.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

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.

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.

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.

Ninth Reading: John 1: 1-14

Read by the Rector

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

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 the 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: which were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor 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.

Thanks be to God

The Prayers

Rector And let us pray.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Rector Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Rector Everlasting father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Rector Prince of peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Rector Let us commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**All 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n 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 newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!"

The Blessing

Rector And may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child, be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be with you and all those who you love and pray for; this Christmas time and always.

All **Amen.**

Carol

Stille Nacht – Franz Xaver Grueber (1787-1863)

Voluntary

Dieu parmi nous ('La Nativité du Seigneur' IX) – Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

*The Rector and his family
wish everyone a very joyful Christmas*

Other Christmas Services at Bolton Priory 2021

Christmas Eve, 24 December

16.00 Christingle (**now cancelled**)

23.30 First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day, 25 December

08.00 Holy Communion

10.00 Festal Eucharist (please note time)

Sunday 26th December

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd January

08.00 Holy Communion

10.30 Sung Eucharist

The Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert,

Bolton Abbey,

SKIPTON BD23 6AL

T: 01756 710238

E: office@boltonpriory.org.uk

W: <http://www.boltonpriory.church>

F: <https://www.facebook.com/boltonpriory.uk>

