



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Saint Luke's Fontainebleau
Saturday 13 December 2025

Welcome to our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The service will proceed without announcements.

Bienvenue à cette cérémonie de lectures et de chants. La cérémonie se déroulera sans annonces.

**Carol
(Solo)**

Once in Royal David's city

(Cecil Frances Alexander)

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.*

(All to end)

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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. 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 should be
Mild, obedient, good as He.
4. 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.

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;
When like stars His children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Please remain standing

Bidding Prayer Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen, Chaplain of St Luke's

Lord's Prayer Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Carol Silent Night (Joseph Mohr Franz Gruber)

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, (repeat)

2. Douce nuit, sainte nuit
 Dans les cieux, l'astre luit
 Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit
 Cet enfant sur la paille endormi
 C'est l'amour infini, (repeat)

3. Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruhe, (repeat)

4. 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, (repeat)

Reading 1 Genesis 3: 8-15; 17-19
 God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Carol **Long ago and far away** (David Peacock)

(Singing group)

1. Long ago and far away
 In Bethlehem a mother lay
 Her newborn babe upon the hay
 He was the holy Jesus child,
 He was the holy Jesus.

Chorus

ladies	Nowell, nowell
men	Let angels sing
ladies	Nowell, nowell
men	Let church bells ring
ladies	Nowell, nowell
men	Let everything
ALL	Sing alleluia to the baby boy

(All to end)

2. Shepherds on the mountain cold
Awoke when angel voices told them
Go and leave your lambs in fold,
Follow the star to Bethlehem
Follow the star to Bethlehem!

Chorus

3. When they reached the open door
And saw that love had gone before,
They wond'ring knelt on dirty floor,
Worshipping baby Jesus there,
Worshipping baby Jesus.

Chorus

Reading 2 Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Carol Glorious light

(Keith & Kristyn Getty)

(Singing group)

*Glorious light, see the dawn of salvation:
Angels in white fill the skies with their wondrous song;
Awakening earth with news of His birth;
Join the hymn of the highest heavens!*

*Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to all on earth.
Come and adore Him with wonder –
Christ, Lord of heaven and earth.*

(All to end)

Long has the world fought the song of the angels.
Heavenly music is drowned by a warring world;
Yet hope burns a light, that shatters the night;
Turn your heart to the call of glory!

*Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to all on earth.
Come and adore Him with wonder –
Christ, Lord of heaven and earth.*

There is a day all creation has longed for –
When all of time has been spent and the Lord returns;
His song we'll repeat as heaven completes;
Promised peace that will fill the nations!

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to all on earth.
Come and adore Him with wonder -
Christ, Lord of heaven and earth.

Reading 3 Micah 5: 2-5
The new king will come from Bethlehem, the home of David.

Carol **O little town of Bethlehem** (Reverend Phillips Brooks)

1. O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim thy holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth
For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
3. 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.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Reading 4 Luke 1: 26-35; 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol The angel Gabriel from heaven came (Basque Folk carol)

(Singing Group)

1. *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes aflame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*
2. *"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*
3. *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!*
4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

Reading 5 Luke 2: 1; 3-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

(Singing Group)

1. *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.*

(All to end)

2. Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh.
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Reading 6 Luke 2: 8-16
The shepherds go to the manger



Carol**While Shepherds Watched**

(Nahum Tate)

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spoke the seraph And forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease!"

Reading 7

Matthew 2: 1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Carol**Il est né, le divin enfant**

(Traditional French)

Chorus

*Il est né le divin enfant
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes !
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement !*

1. Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous les promettaient les prophètes
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

Chorus

2. Une étable est son logement
Un peu de paille est sa couchette
Une étable est son logement
Pour un dieu quel abaissement

Chorus

3. Ah ! qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant !
Ah ! que ses grâces sont parfaites !
Ah ! qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant !
Qu'il est doux, ce divin Enfant !

Chorus

4. O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,
O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant
Régnez sur nous entièrement !

Chorus

Reading 8 Matthew 2 : 16-18
The 'Massacre of the Innocents' in which King Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed.

Carol **Coventry Carol**
a lullaby sung by mothers of the doomed children

(Singing Group)

*Refrain: Lully lullay, thou little tiny child,
By by lully lullay.*

1. *Oh sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing
By by lully lullay.*

2. *Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All children young to slay.*
3. *That woe is me, poor child, for thee,
And ever mourn and pray.
For thy parting, neither say nor sing,
By by lully lullay.*

*Refrain: Lully lullay, thou little tiny child,
By by lully lullay.*

Reading 9 John 1: 1-14
St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Lecture 9 Jean 1 : 1-14
Le mystère de l'incarnation

Carol **O come, all ye faithful** (Anon Latin)

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
O come, let us adore Him (x3) 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 (x3) Christ the Lord.
3. 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 (x3) Christ the Lord.

Reflection Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen

Prayers

Blessing

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 ...

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels sing

(Charles Wesley)

1. 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!’
2. 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 one with us to dwell
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing:
‘Glory to the new-born King!’
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings,
Mild, He lays His glory by;
Born that we no more may die;
Born to raise us from the earth;
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing:
‘Glory to the new-born King!’

Part of our collection from this evening's service will contribute towards a donation to the Bishop of Europe's Advent Appeal, which this year is in support of the work of the Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza. <https://www.europe.anglican.org/bishops-advent-appeal-2025>



Christmas Services:

Sunday 14 December	10:30 am – Nativity Play at Eglise Saint-Éloi in Arbonne-la-Forêt
Sunday 21 December	10:30 am – Service at Eglise Saint-Éloi in Arbonne-la-Forêt
Thursday 25 December	10:30 am – Christmas Day Communion service at Eglise Saint-Éloi in Arbonne-la-Forêt

Christians of all denominations are welcome to join us at the Communion table.

Please note that due to renovation work at our Chapel, all services will take place at Eglise Saint-Éloi, 70 rue de la Mairie, 77630 Arbonne-la-Forêt until January 2026.



*When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their
flocks
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among the people
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman