

**A Christmas Service of  
Seven Lessons and Carols  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Hymn - Once in Royal**

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.

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.

3. 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.

4. 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<sup>2</sup>  
All in white shall wait around.

**Bidding prayer and Lord's prayer**

**FIRST LESSON:  
Genesis 3:8-13 The Fall**

**Hymn- Adam Lay e bounden**

Adam lay ybounden  
Bounden in a bond  
Foure thousand winter  
Thought he not too long

And all was for an apple  
An apple that he tok  
As clerkes finden  
Wreten in here book

Never had the apple  
The apple taken ben  
Ne hadde never our lady  
A ben Hevene Quen

Blessed be the time  
The apple taken was  
Therefore we moun singen  
Deo gracias

**SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7 –  
The prophecy of the Messiah's birth**

**Hymn - In the Bleak Midwinter**

In the bleak midwinter,  
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 midwinter, long ago.

Our God,  
Heav'n cannot hold Him,  
nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him,  
whom cherubim,  
worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk,  
and a mangerful 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.

**THIRD LESSON: Micah 5:2-4 –  
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem**

**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 tonight.

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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may his 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 to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel

## **FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1: 26-38 – The Annunciation to Mary**

### **Hymn - The Angel Gabriel**

1. 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!
2. "For know 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!
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, 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!

## **FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 - The Birth of Jesus**

### **Hymn - My Lord Has Come**

Shepherds, called by angels,  
called by love and angels:  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come (x3)

Sages, searching for stars,  
searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me, his love will cherish me,  
love will cradle me.  
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and  
shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable.  
My Lord has come.

## **SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 – The Shepherds go to the Manger**

### **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 (X3)  
Christ the Lord.

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors  
not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten not created:  
[Chorus]

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens  
of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
[Chorus]

## **SEVENTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 – The Incarnation of the word of God**

### **Music - Pifa from Handel's Messiah (cello and organ)**

## **Blessing**

### **Hymn - Hark the Herald**

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  
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  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the newborn King!"