



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

The Third Sunday of Advent, 2023
9.00 pm

St George Peace Memorial Church
East Ivanhoe, Melbourne

WELCOME

St George's is a community committed to making and sustaining connections: with God, with one another, with the local and wider community, and with the environment. We value liturgical worship, encouraging fellowship and community service. We believe in God - the beauty of transcendent holiness, present in our connectedness; and in caring passionately for all in need. All are welcome in this sacred space.

TODAY'S SERVICE

THE LITURGY

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a form of Christian worship service celebrating the birth of Jesus and is traditionally observed at Christmas. The story of the fall of man, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for Christmas Eve 1880 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall. It has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The most famous version is broadcast annually from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve. Our service this evening is adapted from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols first held at King's College on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's, after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn *Once in Royal David's City and ended with Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

MUSICIANS

We thank our musicians for their assistance with the music this evening; Director of Music, Roger Brown, FTCL A.Mus.A, Organist, and the choir of St George's East Ivanhoe, augmented by friends of the choir, who assist at occasional festivals.

COLLECTION

A collection to support the ministry of St. George's will be taken up during the singing of O come all ye faithful. St George's is a community committed to making and sustaining connections: with God. All are welcome in this sacred space.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain seated as the choir sings.

INTROIT

Up! Good Christen folk, and listen George Radcliffe Woodward (1848-1938)

All stand to sing the processional hymn during which the clergy and servers move to their places.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Choir, the congregation should join in for the fifth and sixth verses

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 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.

4. For he is our childhood 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.

All remain standing.

WELCOME

The Reverend John Sanderson, MA
Vicar

BIDDING PRAYER

Fr John. Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 wrought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

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 we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven; in the words which Christ himself hath taught us we are confident to pray,

**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 those who 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.**

Fr John. 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 sits

FIRST LESSON

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.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent beguiled me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it," cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Thanks be to God.

CAROLS

THIS IS THE TRUTH FROM ABOVE
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE LORD AT FIRST DID ADAM MAKE
English traditional carol

SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22.15-18

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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.

CAROLS

THE THREE DROVERS

John Harry Rupert Angior Wiheeler (1901-84)

IN DULCI JUBILO

English traditional carol

THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 9.2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

French traditional carol

FOURTH LESSON

MICAH 5.2-5

The prophet Micah foresees the glory of little Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

All stand to sing.

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 street 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,
whilst mortals sleep, the Angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love,

Hymn continues over the page.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

All sit

FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 1.26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

SUSSEX CAROL
English traditional carol

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

SILENT NIGHT

All stand to sing

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,

Silent night, Holy night:
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

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.

All sit

SIXTH LESSON

MATTHEW 1.18-25

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

THE THREE KINGS

Peter Cornelius (1824-74)

SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2.8-16

The shepherd go to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

arr. William Llewellyn (b. 1925)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

All stand to sing.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

“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
a 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 swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God on high, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

Hymn continues over the page.

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the Earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease!”

All sit

EIGHTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2.1-12

The Wise Men are led by the Star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God.

All please stand for the reading of the Gospel of John

NINTH LESSON

JOHN 1.1-14

The Word is made Flesh.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

All remain standing to sing the offertory hymn during which a collection will be taken.

CONGREGATIONAL 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;

Refrain

*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;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;

All remain standing

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

Fr John: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Fr John: Let us pray

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.**

Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness 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.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

All remain standing to 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 th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

*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 th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hymn continues over the page

Hail the heav'nly 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.

Refrain

All remain standing while the procession leaves during the organ voluntary.

POSTLUDE

Marche Héroïque

Alfred Herbert Brewer(1865-1928)

MUSIC

Up! Good Christen folk, and listen

This is the truth from above

The Lord at first did Adam make

The three drovers

In dulci jubilo

Quelle est cette odeur agreable

Sussex carol

The three kings

Ding Dong Merrily On High

The babe divine

George Radcliffe Woodward

Ralph Vaughan Williams

English traditional carol

John Harry Rupert Angior Wheeler

English traditional carol

French traditional carol

English traditional carol

Peter Cornelius

French traditional carol

Neil Jewell

The service is sung by the Choir of St George East Ivanhoe with friends, and guest conductor Mr Neil Jewell, under the direction of Mr Roger Brown, FTCL A.Mus.A, Director of Music.

You are invited to join the Clergy and Choir for refreshments, which will be served at the entrance to the church immediately following the service.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24 December 5pm Children's Liturgy & BBQ

Christmas Eve - Light 11pm First Mass of Christmas
(Midnight Mass)

Monday 25 December 9am Choral Eucharist

*Christmas Day - Birth of
Our Lord*

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to 'like' and 'follow' us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesEastIvanhoe>) and to subscribe to our YouTube channel (St George Peace Memorial Church East Ivanhoe).

Please take the time to 'like' and 'follow' our new Facebook presence @ HeartEdgeMelbourne (<https://www.facebook.com/HeartEdgeMelbourne>). where you might find news of our HeartEdge initiatives.

Live-Streaming of Services - YouTube

We live-stream our services and events via our YouTube channel, (St George Peace Memorial Church East Ivanhoe). You may access our services, online via this link:

<https://stgeorgeseastivanhoe.org/online>

If you subscribe to our channel and enable notifications you will receive automatic alerts when we go live.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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