

# **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**



**Presented by:**  
**The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys**  
**Coming December 2009**

~ Prelude ~

**Two Preludes on “*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*”**

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

~ Introit ~

**Qem Pastores Laudavere**

Text Origin: Unknown

14<sup>th</sup> Century German Carol  
Arranged: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Quem pastores laudavere,  
Quibus angeli dixere,  
Absit vobis iam timere.  
Natus est Rex gloriae.

The angels spoke  
to the praiseworthy shepherds saying  
Be not afraid.  
born is the King of Glory.

Ad quem magi ambulabant,  
Aurum, thus, myrrham portabant,  
Haec sincere immolabant  
Nato Regi gloriae.

Wise men came  
and humbly made their offerings  
of gold, frankincense and myrrh  
to the Prince of Glory.

Christo regi, Deo nato  
Per Mariam nobis dato,  
Merito resonet vere  
Laus, honor, et gloria.

Through Mary was given to us  
worthily, Christ the King, God Incarnate:  
loudly sing  
praise, honour and glory.

~ Processional ~

*The congregation shall stand for the opening carol.*

**Once in Royal David's City**

C.F. Alexander (1818-95)

H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

Vv. 1-5 Harmonized: A.H. Mann (1850-1929)

V. 6 Arranged: David Willcocks (b.1919)

(Verse 1 – Solo: Treble)

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.

(Verses 2 through 4 – 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 meek and lowly Lived on earth our Savior 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.

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.

(Verses 5 and 6 – Choir & Congregation)

**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.**

**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.**

### **~ 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; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or love him not, or 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:

**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, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen**

*Then shall the Congregation sit.*

### **It Came Upon A Midnight Clear**

Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876)

Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

Arranged: Barry Rose (b. 1934)

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel's strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## First Lesson

### Genesis 3:8-15

*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 has 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### Adam Lay Ybounden

Words 15<sup>th</sup> Century

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond:  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady  
Abeen heavenè queen.

And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkè finden  
Written in their book.

Blessèd be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
*Deo gracias!*

## Second Lesson

### Genesis 22:15-18

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

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 has done this thing, and has not withheld thy 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### Noel Nouvelet

Translation: Marion Jackson

Traditional French Carol  
Arranged: Stephen Jackson (b. 1951)

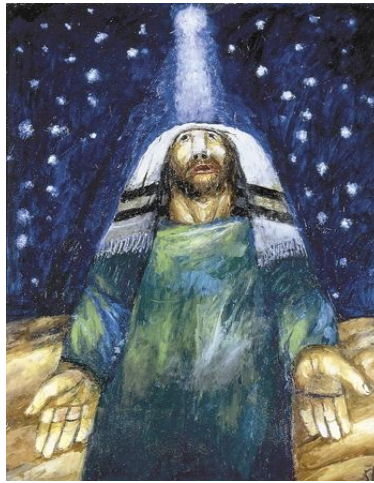
'Noel Nouvelet' we sing a newborn King.  
With our earthly song the firmament shall ring.  
See how the love of God such joy doth bring.  
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields, let gladness fill your mind.  
Go to Bethlehem, the lamb of God to find.  
Lo, from the sky the angel voices sing,  
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Thus they left their sheep, and to the stable bare  
Came with haste and found Joseph and Mary there.  
With them they marveled at this holy thing.  
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Soon the three wise-men, who by a star were led,  
Journeyed from the East, and at the lowly bed  
Each bowed the knee and made an offering:  
'Noel Nouvelet' to Christ the newborn King.

Take my heart, Lord Jesus, who for me was slain,  
Thou who on the cross hast borne my grief and pain,  
Bringing me healing through thy suffering.  
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the heavenly King.



### **Third Lesson**

#### **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

*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, Counselor, 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## Christmas Night

Words: John Rutter

Melody from Arbeau's 'Orchésographie' (1588)

Arranged: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,  
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night.  
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild  
Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed,  
Seraphim in glory hover round his head.  
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,  
Bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:  
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.  
"Glory to God in highest heav'n" their joyful strain,  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men" the glad refrain.

Lullaby! the child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!  
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!  
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:  
Lullaby! sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! let the earth rejoice today!  
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav'n above.  
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

## Glory To God

Words: Chad Dykema

Chad Dykema (b. 19 )

A babe is born today in Bethlehem. Glory to God in the highest.  
He's in a stable with the goats and lambs. Glory to God in the highest.  
And peace on earth, good will to all.  
He's come to heal the sick and help the sad. Glory to God in the highest.  
Emanuel God is among us. Glory to God in the highest.



## Fourth Lesson

### Micah 5

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, 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 shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### **O Little Town Of Bethlehem**

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

English Traditional Melody

Harmonized: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

(Choir & Congregation Vv. 1, 2, & 4)

**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 all on earth!  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

(Choir only)

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 today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

### **Sans Day Carol**

Text: Traditional

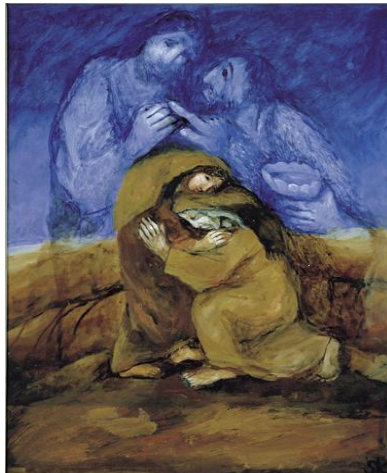
Cornish Traditional Carol  
Arranged: John Rutter (b.1945)

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,  
Then trust we our Savior, who rose from the dead,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.



## Fifth Lesson

**Luke 1: 26-35, 38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

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 has 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 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 Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### Ave Maria

Luke 1:28, 1:42 & Pope Pius V (1568)

David Conte (b. 1955)

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae  
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.

The angel of God visited Maria  
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini.  
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Maria said: See the servant of the Lord.  
May it happen to me according to your word.

Ave Maria...

Et Verbum caro factum est  
et habitavit in nobis.

Ave Maria...

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hail Mary...

And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us.

Hail Mary...

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
Holy Mary, pray for us now  
and in the hour of our death.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

## The Little Drummer Boy

Words & Music: Harry Simone, Henry Onorati, Kathereine Davis

Arranged: John McCarthy

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum  
A new born King to see, pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,  
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum,  
When we come.

Baby Jesus, pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,  
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum,  
On my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,  
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum.

## Sixth Lesson

### Luke 2: 1, 3-7

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole 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 Judaea, 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 she was 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### Away In A Manger

Anonymous

W.J. Kirkpartrick (1838-1921)  
Arranged David Hill (1919)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

## A Babe is Born

Words 15<sup>th</sup> Century

William Mathias (1934-1992)

A babe is born all of a may,  
To bring salvation unto us.  
To him we sing both night and day.  
Veni Creator Spiritus. (*Come, Creator Spirit*)

There came three kings out of the East,  
To worship the King that is so free,  
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
A solis ortus cardine. (*From the sun's rising*)

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,  
The child of bliss now born he was;  
And him to serve God give us grace,  
O lux beata Trinitas. (*O light, blessed Trinity*)

The angels came down with one cry,  
A fair song that night sung they  
In worship of that child:  
Gloria tibi Domine. (*Glory to you, Lord*)

Noël!

## Seventh Lesson

### Luke 2: 8-16

*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 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Words: John Rutter

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Going through the hills on a night all starry  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping  
On the way to Bethlehem.

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh;  
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth,  
And he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.

Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily  
On the way to Bethlehem.  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem?

None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem;  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies  
When I get to Bethlehem.

Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying  
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,  
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Is he there at Bethlehem?  
I will find him soon by the star shining brightly  
In the sky o'er Bethlehem.

May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,  
Is it far to Bethlehem?

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh;  
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King  
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,  
Born for you at Bethlehem.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

C.Wesley, (1707-1788)  
G.Whitefield (1714-1770)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
Arranged: David Willcocks (b.1919)

(Verse 1 - Choir & Congregation)

**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.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.***

(Verse 2 – Choir)

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 as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.*

(Verse 3 - Choir & Congregation)

**Hail the heav'n 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 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.***





## **Eighth Lesson**

### **Matthew 2: 1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### **No Small Wonder**

Words: Paul Wigmore (b. 1925)

Paul Edwards (b. 1956)

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
but stable and manger for God - no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;  
but God gives his life on a cross - no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
the power, the glory, the light of his face;  
but all to redeem my poor heart - no small wonder!

## Ninth Lesson

### John 1: 1-14

*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 any thing 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. 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 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### Let The People Praise Thee, O God

Psalm 67

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Let the people praise thee, O God:  
yea, let all the people praise thee  
O let the nations rejoice and be glad  
For thou shalt judge the folk righteously  
And govern the nations upon earth

Let the people praise thee, O God:  
yea, let all the people praise thee  
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase  
And God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing  
God shall bless us and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us and bless us  
And shew us the light of his countenance and be merciful unto us  
That thy way may be known upon earth thy saving health among all thy nations

Let the people praise thee, O God:  
Yea, let all the people praise thee  
Glory be to Father and to the Son and the Holy Ghost  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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 Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Oakeley, Brooke & others  
(Choir & Congregation)

Anon. 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Arranged: David Willcocks

**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!*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

### THE BLESSING

**This is the Truth Sent from Above**

Traditional English  
Arranged: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Final Verse: Solo Chorister

God grant to all within this place  
True saving faith, that special grace  
Which to his people doth belong:  
And thus we close our Christmas song.

~ Postlude ~

Flourish on *“Joy to the World”*

Michael Dell