



*A Festival of  
Nine Lessons and Carols*

*The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Christmas 2020*

*Trinity Episcopal Church  
Watertown, New York*



## About the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

In 1918, the now famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve was first sung in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of King's Chapel after experience as an army chaplain, which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols would be a more uplifting occasion.

The 1918 service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the large wooden 'shed' which then served as his cathedral in Truro at 10 pm on Christmas Eve, 1880.

A. C. Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop'. Milner-White used Benson's plan, but wrote the now-classic Bidding Prayer to set the tone at the beginning. Since then the spoken parts, which provide the backbone of the service, have only occasionally been changed.

Starting in 1928, the service has been broadcast by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). During the 1930s, BBC began broadcasting the service overseas and since World War II, millions of listeners worldwide listen to the service each year from King's College.



## Lectors

Felicity A. Hallanan

Evelyn C. Rule

Andrew S. Deierlein, *Acolyte*

Barbara E. Ashe, *Trinity Altar Guild Co-Directress*

Daphne L. Sterling, *Episcopal Church Women*

Sue E. Ebersol, *Chorister*

James R. Koch, *Vestryman*

Kyle P. Ramey, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Alice Jean Boucher, *Churchwarden*

The Reverend Molly Payne-Hardin, *Rector*

## A note about the cover

The front cover of this bulletin features a portion of  
*'Adoration of the Child'*

Gerard van Honthorst, c. 1620

oil on canvas

37.5" x 51.5"

Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy

*Said by all.*

**BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE**

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear  
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

*Officiant* The Word was made flesh  
*People* And dwelt among us.

*The Officiant says*  
Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The people join in singing*

**A CAROL**

IRBY, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-76)

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2. He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all,  
3. For he is our life - long pat - tern: dai - ly, when on earth he grew;  
4. And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re - deem - ing love,  
5. Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing round,

where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
he was temp - ted, scorned, re - ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
for that child who seemed so help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, where his saints his throne sur - round:

Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
with the poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
Thus he feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
Christ, re - vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.



*The Officiant says*

### **A BIDDING PRAYER**

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 3.8-15, 17-19

*Lector* A Lesson from the Book of Genesis.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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?" Adam said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God 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 tricked 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."

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

The people join in singing

A CAROL

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong, Mode 4



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3. When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.  
you came, O Sa - vior, to set free your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
not as a mon - arch, but the child of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
de - fend us while we dwell be - low from all as - saults of our dread foe.

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22.15-18

Lector A Lesson from the Book of Genesis.

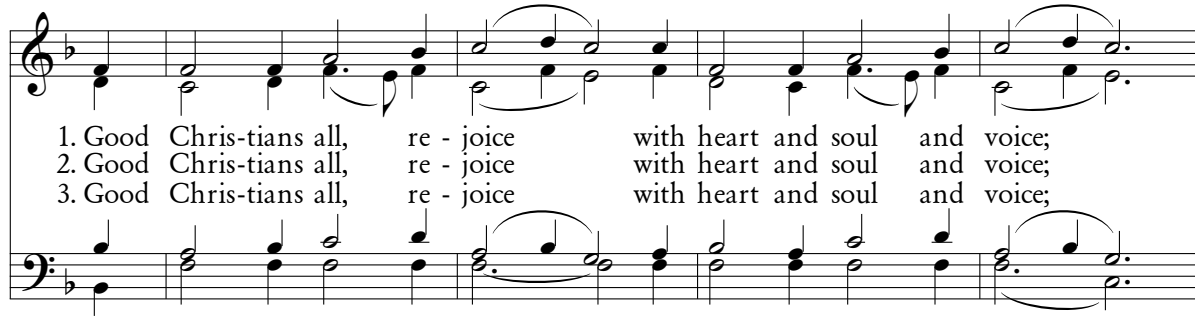
The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that 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."

Lector Here endeth the Lesson.

The people join in singing

A CAROL

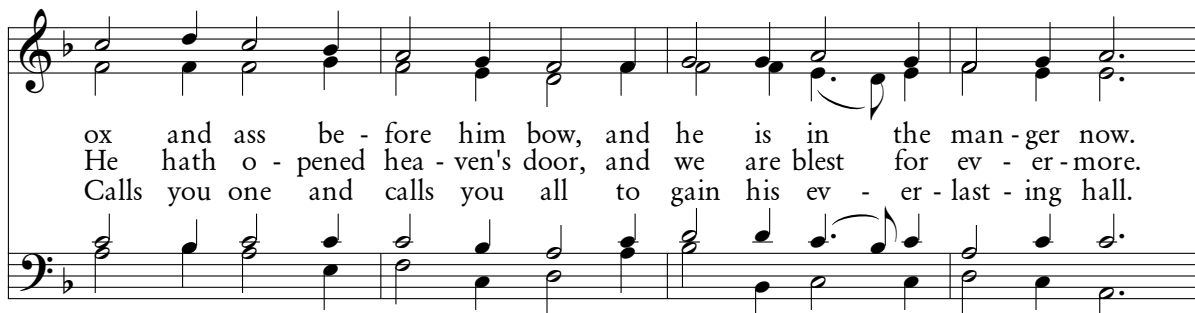
IN DULCI JUBILO, 14<sup>th</sup> c. German carol; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)



1. Good Chris-tians all, re - joi ce with heart and soul and voice;  
2. Good Chris-tians all, re - joi ce with heart and soul and voice;  
3. Good Chris-tians all, re - joi ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**THE THIRD LESSON**

Isaiah 9.2,6-7

*Lector* A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 Counselor, 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 onward and for evermore.  
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

**AN ANTHEM** *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from *Messiah*, HWV56

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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. (*Isaiah 9.6*)

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 11.1-3a, 4a, 6-9

*Lector* A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
 the spirit of counsel and might,  
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
 With righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
 as the waters cover the sea.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

**AN ANTHEM** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
 It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
 dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
 true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

*(st. 1-2, German, 15th century, trans. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934; st. 3, Friedrich Layritz 1808-1859)*

**THE FIFTH LESSON**

St. Luke 1.26-35,38

*Lector* A Lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke.

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

**A CAROL**

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Sanctus trope, 11<sup>th</sup> century



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to  
 2. O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of  
 3. Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es  
 4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to



be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the  
 grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sa - vior  
 sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our  
 thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, and un - wea - ried



end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,  
 of our race; and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - - er,  
 God and King; let no tongue on earth be si - - - - lent,  
 prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - - - - ion,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 ev - ery voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

**THE SIXTH LESSON**

St. Luke 2.1,3-7

*Lector* A Lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

**A CAROL**

CRADLE SONG, melody William Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord  
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus! I ask thee to stay close by me for



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked  
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look  
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from the sky, and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

**THE SEVENTH LESSON**

St. Luke 2.8-16

*Lector* A Lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke.

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 Savior, 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 favors!”

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.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

**AN ANTHEM** *Glory to God* from *Messiah*, HWV56

Handel

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men. (*St. Luke 2.14*)



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,  
 2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line  
 4. "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,  
 5. Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing thron - g  
 6. "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."  
 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:  
 good will hence - forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

St. Matthew 2.1-12

*Lector* A Lesson from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

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.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three full rev - erent -  
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

shep - herds in be - fields as they lay, in fields as they lay,  
 east yond them far, and to the earth it  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both  
 ly up - on their knee, and of - fered there in  
 to our heaven - ly Lord; that hath made heaven and

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star where - so - ev - er it went.  
 stop and stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 his pres - ence their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.  
 earth of nought, and with his blood man - kind hath bought.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## THE NINTH LESSON

St. John 1.1-14

*Lector* A Lesson from the Gospel of St. John.

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.

*Lector* Here endeth the Lesson.

A CAROL

ADESTE FIDELIS, melody att. to John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. God of God, Light of Light,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come, and be -  
 Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb; ve - ry  
 sing all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to  
 Je - su to thee be glo - ry given, Word of the

*Refrain*

hold him, born the King of an - gels! O come let us a - dore him, O  
 God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:  
 God in the high - est:  
 Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant says the Collect.*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Officiant says*

### THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us this joyful Christmastide and always. *Amen.*

*The people join in singing*

### A CAROL

MENDELSSOHN, melody Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

1. Hark! the her - ald - an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
Hark! the her - ald - an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

THE VOLUNTARY *Chorale Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo', BWV 729*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)