

HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN CHURCH
PALERMO



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
2023

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve in 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. He also devised the College's Advent Carol Service, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes.

In almost every year the choice of carols has varied at King's College, and some new ones have been introduced by successive Organists. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, on Christmas Eve. 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'. The idea had come from G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast on the BBC.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derives from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer; and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' to the lowly stable in Bethlehem, and who consent to follow the story to Jesus the Christ.

Please remember to silence mobile phones before the service.

Vi chiediamo gentilmente di ricordarvi di silenziare i telefoni cellulari.

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

We are an open-hearted community of Christians brought together by a shared love of Jesus, a desire to worship and grow in Christ, and for friendly fellowship and mutual support and encouragement.

Our church is an Anglican chaplaincy in the Diocese in Europe, part of the The Church of England. Our services are held principally in English and our members come from around the world. Some are cradle Anglicans, and many come from other church backgrounds. We regularly have visitors who are just here with us just on vacation in Sicily.

We believe that it is through worship, learning, belonging, and the practices of prayer and reading Scripture that we become more deeply aware of who God is, and of our own being. This encounter and union with God through Word and Sacrament changes us. We become light and salt in the world and are more loving towards our neighbours. Our final hope is eternal life in God, a life we begin to participate in even now.

Whether you are seeking answers to life's questions, a doubter, a life-long Christian, single or remarried, part of the LGBTQ+ community, an immigrant, a Panormita/o, or a tourist, you are welcome in the Holy Cross family.

BENVENUTI A HOLY CROSS

Siamo una piccola comunità accogliente di Cristiani che condividono l'amore per Gesù, e l'aspirazione a crescere in Cristo. Siamo uniti da un sentimento di fratellanza, di mutuo soccorso e incoraggiamento.

La nostra comunità fa parte della Chiesa d'Inghilterra. Le funzioni liturgiche sono celebrate in inglese (qualche volta in italiano) ed i fedeli provengono da tutto il mondo. Alcuni sono anglicani dalla nascita, altri giungono da altre confessioni. Regolarmente abbiamo visitatori che sono in Sicilia per vacanza.

Crediamo che è attraverso il culto, il studio, e le pratiche di preghiera e di lettura della Bibbia che diventiamo più consapevoli su chi è Dio e del nostro stesso essere. Questo incontro e unione con Dio attraverso la Parola e l'Eucaristia ci cambia. Diventiamo "luce e sale della terra" e impariamo ad amarci come sorelle e fratelli. La nostra speranza finale è la vita eterna in Dio, una vita a cui iniziamo a partecipare anche adesso.

Se stai cercando risposte alle domande della vita, o se hai i dubbi, se sei cristiano da sempre, o un neofita, se sei single, divorziato, o risposato, parte della comunità LGBTQ+, un immigrato, un Panormita/o o un turista, sei il benvenuto nella famiglia Holy Cross.

THE OFFERING

As the Diocese in and for Europe, we are deeply aware of our international context; perhaps we're also well-placed, then, to think internationally outside Europe itself. I'm delighted to say that we will be supporting this Advent the Anglican Communion Fund of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It exists to make small investments across the church; in the right hands, these can have great impact. Advent appeal donations will go to helping women in Pakistan, Southern India, and Myanmar through micro-grants to women-owned start up businesses and the like.

Your offering will also help sustain the mission and ministry of Holy Cross Church. Thank you.

- Fr James Hadley
chaplain

Thank you for your generous support | Grazie per la vostra generosità

[Soloist]

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 - Tutti]

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.

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

BIDDING PRAYER

*Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.
Tutti in piedi per le preghiere.*

Chaplain

Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent night 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 the Babe lying in a manger.

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; and let us make this Chapel, dedicated to His glorious Cross, 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 especially in the dominions of our sovereign majesty King Charles.

And because this of all things would rejoice Christ's heart, 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; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who 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 this Lord Jesus, 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:

AMEN

Our Father ...

All

OUR FATHER, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Padre Nostro, che sei nei cieli, sia santificato il tuo nome. Venga il tuo regno, sia fatta la tua volontà, come in cielo, così in terra. Dacci oggi il nostro pane quotidiano, E rimetti a noi i nostri debiti come noi li rimettiamo ai nostri debitori. E non ci indurre in tentazione, ma liberaci dal male. Amen.

Chaplain: 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.

Dio onnipotente ci benedica con la sua grazia: Cristo ci dia la gioia della vita eterna: e possa il Re degli angeli condurci alla comunione dei cittadini in cielo.

All Amen.

The congregation sits.

La congregazione si siede.

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will 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 hast 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. And unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

Dopo aver peccato Adamo perde la sua possibilità di rimanere in paradiso tuttavia Dio gli preannuncia che una sua discendente sarà in grado di sconfiggere il serpente ingannatore.

POI udirono il Signore Dio che passeggiava nel giardino alla brezza del giorno e l'uomo con sua moglie si nascosero dal Signore Dio, in mezzo agli alberi del giardino. Ma il Signore Dio chiamò l'uomo e gli disse: «Dove sei?». Rispose: «Ho udito il tuo passo nel giardino: ho avuto paura, perché sono nudo, e mi sono nascosto». Riprese: «Chi ti ha fatto sapere che eri nudo? Hai forse mangiato dell'albero di cui ti avevo comandato di non mangiare?». Rispose l'uomo: «La donna che tu mi hai posta accanto mi ha dato dell'albero e io ne ho mangiato». Il Signore Dio disse alla donna: «Che hai fatto?». Rispose la donna: «Il serpente mi ha ingannata e io ho mangiato». Allora il Signore Dio disse al serpente: «Poiché tu hai fatto questo, sii tu maledetto più di tutto il bestiame e più di tutte le bestie selvatiche; sul tuo ventre camminerai e polvere mangerai per tutti i giorni della tua vita. Io porrò inimicizia tra te e la donna, tra la tua stirpe e la sua stirpe: questa ti schiaccerà la testa e tu le insidierai il calcagno». Alla donna disse: «Moltiplicherò i tuoi dolori e le tue gravidanze, con dolore partorirai figli. Verso tuo marito sarà il tuo istinto, ma egli ti dominerà». All'uomo disse: «Poiché hai ascoltato la voce di tua moglie e hai mangiato dell'albero, di cui ti avevo comandato: Non ne devi mangiare, maledetto sia il suolo per causa tua! Con dolore ne trarrai il cibo per tutti i giorni della tua vita. Spine e cardi produrrà per te e mangerai l'erba campestre. Con il sudore del tuo volto mangerai il pane; finché tornerai alla terra, perché da essa sei stato tratto: polvere tu sei e in polvere tornerai!».

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[Choir only / Solo il coro]

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as
drifted snow, his eyes as flame. 'All hail', said he, 'O
lowly maiden Mary', most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

For now 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!

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!

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!

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all 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 hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only 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 seashore; 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.

Thanks be to God.

Dio promette al fedele Abramo che nella sua discendenza saranno benedette tutte le nazioni della terra.

POI l'angelo del Signore chiamò dal cielo Abramo per la seconda volta e disse: «Giuro per me stesso, oracolo del Signore: perché tu hai fatto questo e non mi hai rifiutato tuo figlio, il tuo unico figlio, io ti benedirò con ogni benedizione e renderò molto numerosa la tua discendenza, come le stelle del cielo e come la sabbia che è sul lido del mare; la tua discendenza si impadronirà delle città dei nemici. Saranno benedette per la tua discendenza tutte le nazioni della terra, perché tu hai obbedito alla mia voce».

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All - Tutti]

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow,
nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make his Blessings flow.
Far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove.
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

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, Counsellor, 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.

Thanks be to God.

Il profeta predice la venuta del Salvatore.

IL popolo che camminava nelle tenebre, vede una gran luce; su quelli che abitavano il paese dell'ombra della morte, la luce risplende. Poiché un bambino ci è nato, un figlio ci è stato dato, e il dominio riposerà sulle sue spalle; sarà chiamato Consigliere ammirabile, Dio potente, Padre eterno, Principe della pace, per dare incremento all'impero e una pace senza fine al trono di Davide e al suo regno, per stabilirlo fermamente e sostenerlo mediante il diritto e la giustizia, da ora e per sempre: questo farà lo zelo del SIGNORE degli eserciti.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All - Tutti]

Long time ago in Bethlehem. So, the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas
Day.

[Chorus] Hark, now hear the angels sing,
a king was born today, And man will live for evermore,
because of Christmas Day. Trumpets sound and
angels sing, listen to what they say, that man will live
for ever more, because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watch their flocks by night, them
see a bright new shining star, Them hear a choir sing,
the music seemed to come from afar.

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, come to Bethlehem
that night, Them find no place to born she child, not a
single room was in sight.

[Chorus]

By and by they found a little nook in a stable all
forlorn, And in a manger cold and dark, Mary's little
boy was born.

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas
Day

[Chorus]

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

La pace che Cristo porterà è preannunciata.

UN germoglio spunterà dal tronco di Jesse, un virgulto germoglierà dalle sue radici. Su di lui si poserà lo spirito del Signore, spirito di sapienza e di intelligenza, spirito di consiglio e di forza, spirito di conoscenza e di timore del Signore. Si compiacerà del timore del Signore. Non giudicherà secondo le apparenze e non prenderà decisioni per sentito dire; ma giudicherà con giustizia i miseri e prenderà decisioni eque per gli oppressi del paese. La sua parola sarà una verga che percuoterà il violento; con il soffio delle sue labbra ucciderà l'empio. Fascia dei suoi lombi sarà la giustizia, cintura dei suoi fianchi la fedeltà. Il lupo dimorerà insieme con l'agnello, la pantera si sdraierà accanto al capretto; il vitello e il leoncello pascoleranno insieme e un fanciullo li guiderà. La vacca e l'orsa pascoleranno insieme; si sdraieranno insieme i loro piccoli. Il leone si ciberà di paglia, come il bue. Il lattante si trastullerà sulla buca dell'aspide; il bambino metterà la mano nel covo di serpenti velenosi. Non agiranno più iniquamente né saccheggeranno in tutto il mio santo monte, perché la saggezza del Signore riempirà il paese come le acque ricoprono il mare.

[All - Tutti]

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

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
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.

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 hast 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 forever; 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.

Thanks be to God.

NEL sesto mese, l'angelo Gabriele fu mandato da Dio in una città della Galilea, chiamata Nazaret, a una vergine, promessa sposa di un uomo della casa di Davide, chiamato Giuseppe. La vergine si chiamava Maria. Entrando da lei, disse: «Ti saluto, o piena di grazia, il Signore è con te». A queste parole ella rimase turbata e si domandava che senso avesse un tale saluto. L'angelo le disse: «Non temere, Maria, perché hai trovato grazia presso Dio. Ecco concepirai un figlio, lo darai alla luce e lo chiamerai Gesù. Sarà grande e chiamato Figlio dell'Altissimo; il Signore Dio gli darà il trono di Davide suo padre e regnerà per sempre sulla casa di Giacobbe e il suo regno non avrà fine». Allora Maria disse all'angelo: «Come è possibile? Non conosco uomo». Le rispose l'angelo: «Lo Spirito Santo scenderà su di te, su te stenderà la sua ombra la potenza dell'Altissimo. Colui che nascerà sarà dunque santo e chiamato Figlio di Dio. Allora Maria disse: «Eccomi, sono la serva del Signore, avvenga di me quello che hai detto». E l'angelo partì da lei.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All - Tutti]

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring. On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.

Then why on Earth should we be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad. Then why on Earth should we be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad. When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our Liberty?

When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place. When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place. Angels and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night. All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and Peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.'

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the 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 Judæa, 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 they were 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.

Thanks be to God.

San Luca racconta la nascita di Gesù.

IN quei giorni un decreto di Cesare Augusto ordinò che si facesse il censimento di tutta la terra. Questo primo censimento fu fatto quando era governatore della Siria Quirinio. Andavano tutti a farsi registrare, ciascuno nella sua città. Anche Giuseppe, che era della casa e della famiglia di Davide, dalla città di Nazaret e dalla Galilea salì in Giudea alla città di Davide, chiamata Betlemme, per farsi registrare insieme con Maria sua sposa, che era incinta. Ora, mentre si trovavano in quel luogo, si compirono per lei i giorni del parto. Diede alla luce il suo figlio primogenito, lo avvolse in fasce e lo depose in una mangiatoia, perché non c'era posto per loro nell'albergo.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

The candles of the congregation are lit / Le candele della congregazione sono accese.

[All / Tutti]

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.

Dormi bambin, dolce Signor.
Sotto un ciel di stelle d'or.
Tutti gli Angeli cantan lassù:
'Gloria, è nato il Bambino Gesù'
Festa di Pace sei Tu, festa di pace sei tu.

Stille nacht! Heilige nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf'in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf'in himmlischer Ruh.

Silent night, Holy night.
Son of God loves pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

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.

Thanks be to God.

I pastori vanno alla mangiatoia.

C'ERANO in quella regione alcuni pastori che vegliavano di notte facendo la guardia al loro gregge. Un angelo del Signore si presentò davanti a loro e la gloria del Signore li avvolse di luce. Essi furono presi da grande spavento, ma l'angelo disse loro: «Non temete, ecco vi annunzio una grande gioia, che sarà di tutto il popolo: oggi vi è nato nella città di Davide un salvatore, che è il Cristo Signore. Questo per voi il segno: troverete un bambino avvolto in fasce, che giace in una mangiatoia». E subito apparve con l'angelo una moltitudine dell'esercito celeste che lodava Dio e diceva: «Gloria a Dio nel più alto dei cieli e pace in terra agli uomini che egli ama». Appena gli angeli si furono allontanati per tornare al cielo, i pastori dicevano fra loro: «Andiamo fino a Betlemme, vediamo questo avvenimento che il Signore ci ha fatto conoscere». Andarono dunque senz'indugio e trovarono Maria e Giuseppe e il bambino, che giaceva nella mangiatoia.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All / Tutti]

Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness.
Uncreated light shines through infant eyes.

[Chorus] God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)

Stars and angels sing, yet the earth sleeps in shadows.
Can this tiny spark, set a world on fire?

[Chorus] God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)

Yet his light shall shine from our lives, Spirit blazing.
As we touch the flame of his holy fire.

[Chorus] God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa 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 Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired 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 worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

La stella conduce I magi a Gesù.

GESÙ nacque a Betlemme di Giudea, al tempo del re Erode. Alcuni Magi giunsero da oriente a Gerusalemme e domandavano: «Dov'è il re dei Giudei che è nato? Abbiamo visto sorgere la sua stella, e siamo venuti per adorarlo». All'udire queste parole, il re Erode restò turbato e con lui tutta Gerusalemme. Riuniti tutti i sommi sacerdoti e gli scribi del popolo, s'informava da loro sul luogo in cui doveva nascere il Messia. Gli risposero: «A Betlemme di Giudea, perché così è scritto per mezzo del profeta: *E tu, Betlemme, terra di Giuda, non sei davvero il più piccolo capoluogo di Giuda: da te uscirà infatti un capo che pascerà il mio popolo, Israele*». Allora Erode, chiamati segretamente i Magi, si fece dire con esattezza da loro il tempo in cui era apparsa la stella e li inviò a Betlemme esortandoli: «Andate e informatevi accuratamente del bambino e, quando l'avrete trovato, fatemelo sapere, perché anch'io venga ad adorarlo». Udite le parole del re, essi partirono. Ed ecco la stella, che avevano visto nel suo sorgere, li precedeva, finché giunse e si fermò sopra il luogo dove si trovava il bambino. Al vedere la stella, essi provarono una grandissima gioia. Entrati nella casa, videro il bambino con Maria sua madre, e prostratisi lo adorarono. Poi aprirono i loro scrigni e gli offrirono in dono oro, incenso e mirra.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All / Tutti]

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps
of gold: 'Peace on the earth, good will to men from
heaven's all gracious King. The world in solemn stillness
lay to 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
blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered
long, beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand
years of wrong. And warring humankind hears not the
love-song which they bring: O hush the noise of mortal
strife, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of
gold, When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient
splendours fling, and all the world gives back the song
which now the angels sing.

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 anything 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. He came unto his own, and his own received 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: who 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.

Thanks be to God.

San Giovanni svela il grande mistero dell'Incarnazione.

IN principio era il Verbo, il Verbo era presso Dio e il Verbo era Dio. Egli era in principio presso Dio: tutto è stato fatto per mezzo di lui, e senza di lui niente è stato fatto di tutto ciò che esiste. In lui era la vita e la vita era la luce degli uomini; la luce splende nelle tenebre, ma le tenebre non l'hanno accolta. Venne un uomo mandato da Dio e il suo nome era Giovanni. Egli venne come testimone per rendere testimonianza alla luce, perché tutti credessero per mezzo di lui. Egli non era la luce, ma doveva rendere testimonianza alla luce. Veniva nel mondo la luce vera, quella che illumina ogni uomo. Egli era nel mondo, e il mondo fu fatto per mezzo di lui, eppure il mondo non lo riconobbe. Venne fra la sua gente, ma i suoi non l'hanno accolto. A quanti però l'hanno accolto, ha dato potere di diventare figli di Dio: a quelli che credono nel suo nome, i quali non da sangue, né da volere di carne, né da volere di uomo, ma da Dio sono stati generati. E il Verbo si fece carne e venne ad abitare in mezzo a noi; e noi vedemmo la sua gloria, gloria come di unigenito dal Padre, pieno di grazia e di verità.

Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

[All / Tutti]

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.

[Chorus] 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.

[Chorus] 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, glory in the highest!

[Chorus] O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him. O
come let us adore him. Christ the Lord.

Adeste fideles, Laeti triumphantes.
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte, Regem Angelorum:

[Chorus] Venite adoremus. Venite adoremus. Venite adoremus,
Dominum!

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Chaplain The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Chaplain 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.

All **Amen.**

Chaplain

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward 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 upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Candles are extinguished. Si prega di spegnere le candele.

[All - Tutti]

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!"

[Chorus] 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.

[Chorus] Hark! the herald angels sing.
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born 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 we no more may die; Born to raise us of the earth, Born to give us second birth.

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

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

Holy Eucharist at 10.30pm

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

Holy Eucharist at 10.30am

Regular Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10.30am

Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer

ALL ARE WELCOME

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