

Nau mai, Haere mai, Welcome
to the Service of Nine Lessons, and Carols
4pm, Sunday 16th December 2017
Wesley Methodist Church, Hawera



Carol

[Solo]

1. Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

[All]

2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.



"Through Jesus, our greatest treasure, came an explosion of true love. He shattered the splendid walls of the proud fortresses of the world's great ones. He put his hand in the hand of the weak and brought peace to humble dwellings." -
Gwylim R. Jones

Priest I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua, te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. Amine. (In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.) Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 especially in this city of New Plymouth and this dioces of Taranaki and Waikato

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and 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 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 the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught:

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

1ST LESSON, "THE FALL." GENESIS 3

Reader [*Finishes with*] ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *Adam lay ybounden* – John Ireland (1879-1962)

2ND LESSON, "GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM." GENESIS 22.

Reader [*Finishes with*] ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol

1. Above the peaks the angels sing,
across the snow their voices ring,
and musterers come riding down,
to find the little country town
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.

2. Across the hills the rata spread,
their signal fires of smokey red;
by golden sands and whit'ning shell,
pohutukawa flames to tell
that Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.

3. Beneath a Southern Cross of light,
led by the Pointers, through the night
three travellers are hast'ning home,
from distant lands to find their own;
for Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.

4. We too would sing that ancient song,
and join the busy, hurrying throng,
and take the road once more to find,
that hallowed place in heart and mind
where Christ is waiting to be born,
our summer Child this Christmas morn.



3RD LESSON, "THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOUR."

ISAIAH 9.

Reader ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir : *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming* – Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

4TH LESSON, "THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN."

ISAIAH 11.

Reader ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol

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1. 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.
 2. O morning stars, together, Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep, Their watch of wond'ring love.
 3. How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, Still the dear Christ enters in.
 4. 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.

5TH LESSON, "THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE VIRGIN MARY". ST LUKE 1

Reader ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.



Choir: *The Angel Gabriel* – Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

6TH LESSON, "ST LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS." ST LUKE 2

Reader ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *The Infant King* – arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

The Sermon. - Archdeacon Trevor

Carol

1. 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 heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2. 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.

3. O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours,
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.



4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own,
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

7TH LESSON, "THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER." ST LUKE 2

Reader [Finishes with] ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir: *Love came down at Christmas* – Alfred Ernest Floyd (1877-1974)

8TH LESSON, "THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS."

MATTHEW 2

Reader [Finishes with] ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Choir : *Star Carol* - John Rutter (b. 1945)

During this carol, a collection will be taken up for the work of this community.
Thank you for your support.

**1. 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 the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the newborn King**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.**

3. Hail, the heaven-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.

9TH LESSON, "ST JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE
INCARNATION." ST JOHN 1

Reader [Finishes with] ...Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Carol

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of Angels.

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest'.



please remain standing as we pray

Priest There is dignity here - we will exalt it
 There is courage here - we will support it
 There is humanity here - we will enjoy it
 There is a universe in every child - we will share in it
 There is a voice calling through the chaos of our times
 There is a Spirit moving across the waters of our world
 There is movement, a light, a promise of hope.
 And we have worshipped you in word and in song this night.
 May those who have ears to hear, hear
 May those who have eyes to see, see
 Behold we bring you good tidings of great joy.
 Emmanuel - God with us

All **Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly festival of
the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Grant that we , who have known the revelation of that light on
earth, may see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and re reigns with you and
the holy spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen**

Priest May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly
 and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and
 goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son
 and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Postlude: Toccata on "Joy to the world" - Martin Setchell (b. 1949)

Archdeacon Trevor writes

“It has been a real pleasure to come and share this feast of carols and readings as we celebrate our Saviour's birth. On behalf of the whole Cathedral community, may you have a joyful and blessed Christmas.”

