

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 20th December 2020
6.00pm

Organ music before the service:

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

§ *The congregation stands:.*

- 1 (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.*
- 2 (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 mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.*
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

§ *The congregation, standing, shall be bidden to prayer in these words:*

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angel, 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 day 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 our parish. And because this 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 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:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above many the King of angels bring us all. **Amen**

§ *All sit.*

§ *The choir sings:*

Up good Christen folk and listen

traditional arr. Woodward

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3: 8-15

§ *The choir sings:*

Remember, O thou man

Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1635)

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22: 15-18

§ *The choir sings:*

And he shall purify (Messiah)

G. F. Handel (1685-1750)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

§ *The choir sings:*

Puer natus in Bethlehem

13th-century arr. Praetorius

A boy is born in Bethlehem / Rejoice, therefore, Jerusalem. Alleluia
Our human flesh doth he take on / High Word of God, the eternal Son. Alleluia
From serpent's wound immune was he / Yet shared he our humanity. Alleluia
'Tis flesh like ours he's clothed in / Though free from man's primeval sin. Alleluia
At this glad birth, with one accord / Let us rejoice and bless the Lord! Alleluia

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11: 1-9

§ *All stand for the HYMN:*

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 (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.*

3 O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1: 26-38

§ *The choir sings:*

Sans Day carol

Cornish traditional arr. Rutter

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 1-7

§ *The choir sings:*

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2: 8-20

§ *All stand for the HYMN:*

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued, both day and night.

3 And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far,
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

4 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-12

§ *The choir sings:*

Videntes stellam

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Seeing the star, the wise men were overwhelmed with great joy;
and entering the dwelling, they offered to the Lord gold, frankincense and myrrh.

§ *The congregation stands*

NINTH LESSON John 1: 1-14

§ *All sit as the choir sings:*

A babe is born

William Mathias (1934-1992)

§ *All stand for the **HYMN**:*

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:
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 heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Priest Let us pray:

THE COLLECT

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation 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.**

THE BLESSING

Amen: Farrant

§ *All sing this HYMN:*

- 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 th'angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"
- 2 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 the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell: Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"
- 3 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 new-born King!"

Organ Voluntaries:|

In dulci jubilo (Fantasia) BWV 729

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Toccata in B flat minor (Pièces de Fantaisie)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

**The Choir of Chelsea Old Church
Organist & Director of Music –Andrew Macmillan**

**The service is conducted by
Mr John Watherston CBE, Lay Reader**