

*A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
for the Diocese of Niagara
from the
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora*



*Sunday, December 20, 2020
Live-streamed at 7:00 pm*

*The Right Reverend Susan Bell
Bishop of Niagara*

Founded in 1832, the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Elora has offered Nine Lessons and Carols for over 40 years. This is the first year in over 40 years that the service is live-streamed from Elora without a congregation present and for the spiritual benefit of the whole diocese. We trust that you are as inspired by the music and readings as we are to prepare it for you. Should you be so moved to do so, donations can be made in support of the ministry enabled through the work of the Bishop's Company Fund. You can make a donation via Canada Helps: <https://tinyurl.com/y7tctud>

Bishop's Welcome
Rector's Welcome
Bells

Prelude - Procession

CAROL Once In Royal David's City

arr. David Willcocks

Solo:

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.

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.

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.

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 Bishop Susan Bell

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide 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 record 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 people; for unity and harmony within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

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 one 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, 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The 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. **Amen.**

LESSON I Genesis 3.8-15, 17-19 God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and his offspring will bruise the serpent's head.

Read by Mary Steele, St. David's Welland

QUARTET Adam Lay y-bounden

Ord

Adam lay ybounden
Bounden in a bond
Four thousand winter
Though he not too long

Nay had the apple taken been
The apple taken been
Nay had never our lady
Abeen heavene queen

And all was for an apple
An apple that he took
As clerkes finden
written in their book

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

LESSON II Genesis 22.15-18 God promises to faithful Abraham that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through his offspring.

Read by Raquel Nettel, St. Christopher's Burlington

QUARTET **People, Look East**

Traditional

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength, the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

LESSON III Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 The prophet tells of the coming of the Saviour

Read by William Pang, Grace Church, Waterdown

CAROL **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

LESSON IV: Isaiah 11.1-3a, 6-9 The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Read by Hayley Galsworthy, St. John's Ancaster

QUARTET **A Tender Shoot**

Goldschmidt

A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace
As ancient seers imparted
From Jesse's holy race
It blooms without a blight
It blooms without a blight
Blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning our darkness into light

This shoot Isaiah taught us
From Jesse's root should spring
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing
Our God of endless might
Our God of endless might
Gave her this child to save us
Thus turning darkness into light

LESSON V Luke 1.26-35, 38 The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Read by Dumkele Aligwekwe, Church of the Incarnation Oakville

QUARTET The Angel Gabriel

Pettman

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!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

'For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,'
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!

LESSON VI Luke 2.1, 3-7 St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
Read by Katherine Kerley, St. John's Thorold

QUARTET Myn Lyking

Terry

1. I saw a fair maiden
Sitten and sing:
She lulled a little child,
A sweete Lording

2. That Eternal Lord is He
That made alle thing;
Of alle Lordes He is Lord,
Of alle Kinges King.
Refrain

Refrain:]
Lullay my liking,
My dear Son, my Sweeting;
Lullay my dear Heart,
Mine own dear Darling.

3. There was mickle melody
At that childes birth:
All that were in heavenly
They made mickle mirth.
Refrain

4. Angels bright they sang that night
And saiden to that Child
"Blessed be Thou and so be she
So meek and so mild."

LESSON VII Luke 2.8-16 The shepherds go to the manger.
Read by Canon Penny Anderson, Christ Church Niagara Falls

QUARTET**Shepherd's Pipe Carol**

Rutter

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 the joy that Christ the newborn King
 Is come to bring peace on earth
 And He's lying cradled there at 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."

"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."

"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?"

Angels in the sky came down from on high
 Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying
 Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary
 Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

LESSON VIII Matthew 2.1-12 Wise men are led by a star to Jesus in Bethlehem.
Read by Janice Whiteley, St. Matthew on the Plains Burlington

QUARTET**Bethlehem Down**

Warlock

When He is King we will give Him a King's gifts,
 Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
 Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph,
 Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
 Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
 He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
 Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
 Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
 Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music,
 Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
 Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
 Mary for love, and for lullaby music,
 Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem Down.

LESSON IX John 1.1-14 St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.
Read by Bishop Susan Bell

CAROL**Good Christians all, Rejoice**

Good Christians, all rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now give heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today,
 ox and ass before him bow,
 and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today;
 Christ is born today.

Good Christians, all rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now you hear of endless bliss:
 Jesus Christ was born for this.
 He has opened heaven's door,
 and we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this;
 Christ was born for this.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

COLLECT –The Reverend Canon Paul Walker

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

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. **Amen.**

BLESSING – Bishop Susan Bell

HYMN **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

arr. 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, (3×)
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, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

Postlude

Recession

Quartets:

The two quartets are members of the St. John's Elora Parish Choir.

Quartet One: Dayna Lamothe, Daniel Cabena, Jerome Chang, Michael Cressman

Quartet Two: Rebecca McKay, Heather Fleming, Quade Nielson, Matt Oxley

Officiant: The Right Reverend Susan J.A. Bell, Bishop of Niagara

Rector: The Reverend Canon Paul J. Walker

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Judy Steers

Director of Music: John Wiens

Organist: Jurgen Petrenko

Crucifer: Ken Reid

Technical Production: The Venerable Bill Mous, the Reverend Judy Steers, Steve Hornett, Rod Murray, Gerry Hill

CD Audio Technician: Quade Nielson

"This is Your Figgy Pudding 2020"

The choral music prepared for this year's Advent and Christmas services was recorded on a limited production run CD, "This is Your Figgy Pudding 2020." The CD was created by members of the St. John's Elora Parish Choir following guide tracks from their homes under the direction of John Wiens.



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