

Lancaster Royal Grammar School
Founded 13th Century John Gardyner's Endowment 1472



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Lancaster Priory and Parish Church

Saturday 14th, Monday 16th

& Wednesday 18th December 2024

Organist - Andrew Plowman

Director of Music - Rose Martin

Brass Ensemble Director - Sarah Edmondson

Associate Conductor - Richard Adamson

Processional Hymn

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.

**Choir and
Congregation**

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 through all his wondrous childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all must be,
Mild, obedient, good as he.

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.

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;
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

The Bidding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Invitatory Carol

Choir and God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Congregation For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:

O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightaway this blessed babe to find:

O tidings of comfort and joy.

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:

O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth de-face:

O tidings of comfort and joy.

First Lesson

Genesis 3 Year 7 pupil

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise
the serpent's head.

Choir

La Berceuse

Barbara Bell arr. John Rutter

Second Lesson

Genesis 22 Year 8 pupil

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all
the nations of the earth be blessed.

Carol

All

Good King Wenceslas look'd out
On the feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Lower voices

'Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'

Upper voices

'Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

Lower voices

'Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear him thither.'

All

Page and monarch forth they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild lament,
And the bitter weather.

Upper voices

'Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer

Lower voices

'Mark my footsteps, my good page,
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter's rage,
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

All

In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dented
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9 Year 9 pupil

Christ's birth and the kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Brass Ensemble

In the Bleak Midwinter - Gustav Holst

The First Nowell - John Stainer

Arr. Sarah Watts

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5 Year 10 pupil

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Carol

**Choir and
Congregation**

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.

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 won'dring love.

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.

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.

Fifth Lesson

S. Luke 1 Year 11 pupil

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir – featuring String Group

Still, Still, Still

Austrian carol arr. Mack Wilberg

Sixth Lesson

S. Luke 2 A member of the Choir

S. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Choir – Tenors and Basses

I Saw Three Ships

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Seventh Lesson

S. Luke 2 A Sixth Former

The shepherds go to the manger

Choir – Upper Voices

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

arr. Audrey Snyder

Prayers

Carol

**Choir and
Congregation**

Unto us is born a Son
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know
Becradled in the manger, becradled in the manger.

Lower voices

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer, and slew the little childer.

Upper voices

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story:
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory, might lead us up to glory!

All

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino, benedicamus domino.

Eighth Lesson

S. Matthew 2 A Prefect

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Choir
The Three Kings
Peter Cornelius

Please stand

Ninth Lesson

S. John 1 The Head of School

S. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Carol

**Choir and
Congregation**

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.*

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, 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, in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born on Christmas morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

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

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Almighty God. As we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blessing

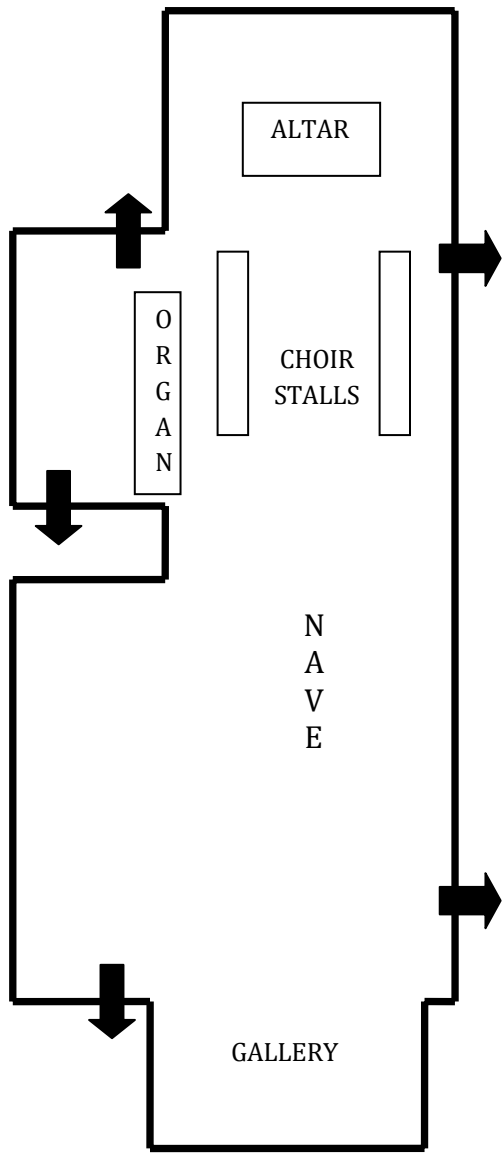
Hymn


**Choir and
Congregation**

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 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 as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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!'*



Exits are marked 

In the unlikely event of a fire, please note that the emergency exits are situated in the four corners of the Priory Church

