

CAROL

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

NINTH LESSON
St. JOHN 1: 1-14

St. John unfoldeth the great mvstery of the
Incarnation.

Reader: THE VICAR

CAROL

THE FIRST NOEL ★ S.P.384.

ADDRESS

THE VICAR

CAROL

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL. S.P.78.

MINISTER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who has given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature
upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we
being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be
renewed by the Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth
and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

AMEN.

THE BLESSING

MAY He who by His Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly
fill you with the excellency of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of
God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost be upon you, and remain with
you always. AMEN.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING. S.P.74.

A FESTIVAL OF

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

in

The Parish Church of St. Mary
Luton

upon

THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
1949

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY. S.P. 368.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

DEAR Children of God, be it this First Sunday before Christmas our care and delight to prepare ourselves 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:

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 Church, dedicated to Mary His Virgin Mother, 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, within the dominions of our Sovereign Lord King George, and within this town of Luton:

And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His Name the poor and the 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 who serve in the Forces of the King; 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 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

★ The congregation shall sit for all the carols, except those marked with an asterisk, in which they are asked to join heartily.

INVITATORY CAROL

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM ★ S.P.79.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: Ye shall find the Babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

FIRST LESSON
GENESIS III: 8-15

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

Reader: A CHORISTER

CAROLS

THERE IS NO ROSE OF SUCH VIRTUE
THE LUTE BOOK LULLABY

SECOND LESSON
GENESIS XXII: 15-18

God promiseth to Faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the world be blessed.

Reader: THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

CAROLS

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING
KING JESUS HATH A GARDEN

THIRD LESSON
ISAIAH IX: 2, 6, 7

Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Esaias.

Reader: THE CLERK

CAROL

UNTO US A BOY IS BORN ★ S.P.385.

FOURTH LESSON
MICAH V: 2, 3, 4

The Prophet Micah foreseeth the glory of little Bethlehem.

Reader: THE ORGANIST

CAROLS

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH
COVENTRY CAROL

FIFTH LESSON
ST. LUKE 1: 26-33 and 38

The Angel Gabriel visiteth the blessed Virgin Mary.

Reader: THE CROSS BEARER

CAROLS

A BABE LIES IN THE MANGER
INTO THIS WORLD NOW IS COME

SIXTH LESSON
ST. MATTHEW I: 18-23

St. Matthew telleth of Christ's Holy Birth.

Reader: A CHURCHWARDEN

CAROL

SHEPHERDS' IN THE FIELDS ABIDING ★ Leaflet 4.

SEVENTH LESSON
ST. LUKE II: 8-16

The Shepherds go unto the manger.

Reader: A LAY READER

CAROL

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

EIGHTH LESSON
ST. MATTHEW II: 1-11

The Wise Men are led by the Star to Jesus.

Reader: THE SENIOR CURATE