

A Service of
Nine Lessons And Carols



Saint Leonard's Church
Clent

December 2007

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born

Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

Of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!

Voluntary	O Gott, du frommer Gott - "O God, most holy God" Chorale & Variations	J.S. Bach	Choir	The 'Boar's Head' Carol Wynkyn de Worde (1521)
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Carol	"Once in Royal David's city .." Verse 1 ~ Solo Verse 2 ~ Choir	46 (A&M)		SIXTH LESSON <i>St. Matthew tells of the birth</i> <i>St. Matthew i</i>
	BIDDING PRAYER		Carol	O little town of Bethlehem 40 (A&M)
Carol	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	26 (A&M)		SEVENTH LESSON <i>The shepherds go to the manger</i> <i>St. Luke ii</i>
	FIRST LESSON <i>God announces in the garden of Eden ..</i>	<i>Genesis iii</i>		
Choir	Sing .. "Lullaby" French - Traditional		Choir	Gaudete English - Traditional (1582)
	SECOND LESSON <i>God promises to faithful Abraham ..</i>	<i>Genesis xxii</i>		EIGHTH LESSON <i>The wise men are led by the star</i> <i>St. Matthew ii</i>
Carol	Come, thou long-expected Jesus	31 (A&M)	Carol	In the bleak mid-winter 42 (A&M)
	THIRD LESSON <i>Christ's birth foretold ..</i>	<i>Isaiah ix</i>		NINTH LESSON <i>St. John unfolds the great mystery</i> <i>St. John i</i>
Choir	'An Old Carol' (XVth Century) Roger Quilter (1924)		Carol	"O Come, all ye Faithful ..." Verses 1 - 3 34 (A&M)
	FOURTH LESSON <i>God's people called to be ready</i>	<i>Isaiah lx</i>		COLLECT & PRAYER BLESSING
Carol	Of the Father's Love be-gotten	33 (A&M)	Carol	"Hark, the herald angels sing ..." ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
	FIFTH LESSON <i>The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>St. Luke i</i>	Concluding Voluntary:	Sonata in A minor: Opus 98 Josef Rheinberger Fuga Cromatica

Originally conceived by Archbishop Benson (when Bishop of Truro), the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 as planned by **Eric Milner-White** who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of Kings' College, Cambridge, after his experience as an army chaplain had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving a re-arrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn _

'Once in royal David's city'.

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"Gaudete" ("Rejoice") is a sacred Christmas carol, composed sometime in the 16th century, most likely in reference to 'Gaudete Sunday', the Third Sunday in Advent, represented with a rose-colored candle to joyfully express a less sombre liturgy, symbolic of Joy at the Imminence of the coming of Christ

The song was published in the *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs from 1582. No music is given for the verses, but the standard tune comes from even older liturgical books.

The text, in Latin, is a typical song of praise, stemming from the Middle Ages and follows the standard pattern for the time - four-line stanza preceded by a two-line refrain (which in the early English carol was known as the *burden*). Carols could be on any subject, but typically they were about the Virgin Mary or the Saints of Christmas.

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**“We wish you a Merry Christmas . . .
And the joy of a Peaceful New Year”**

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Barbara Mapley
Rector

Pauline Jones
Lay-Reader

Anne Harris Rosemarie Buchan
Church Wardens

Harry Grove
Organist & Choirmaster