



A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Theophany:  
The Manifestation of Christ to the World  
8 January 2023– 10.00 AM

Organ: Prelude on the tune “Divinum Mysterium” - Wilbur Held

**Hymn 105, God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

The Bidding Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

*After the prayers, the people are seated for the readings.*

I Genesis 3:1-15, 22-24

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.*

Adam Lay Ybounden - Boris Ord

II Isaiah 40:1-11

*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.*

**Hymn 67, Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

III Micah 5:2-4

*The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.*

O Heavens, Open from Above – Colin Mawby

**Hymn 127, Earth Has Many a Noble City**

IV Luke 1:26-38

*The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.*

**Hymn 265, The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

V Luke 2:1-20

*Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.*

O Magnum Mysterium – Timothy Michael Powell

Hymn 96, Angels We Have Heard on High

VI Matthew 2:1-12

*The Magi are led by a star to worship Jesus.*

Epiphany – Bob Chilcott

VI Matthew 3:13-17

*Jesus is Baptized in the River Jordan*

Hymn 76, O Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Announces that the Lord is Nigh

*The people remain standing for the Eighth Lesson*

VIII John 1:1-14

*John the Evangelist unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

A Mystery, A Miracle – Jayne Southwick Cool

*Your offering is received during the singing of this hymn:*

Of the Father's heart begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see:  
Evermore and evermore!

By His Word was all created, He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun:  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation by the Holy Ghost conceived,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer in her loving arms received:  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord;  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
Now He shines, the long expected, let creation praise its Lord;  
Evermore and evermore!

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises; Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Powers, Dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King!  
Every tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering:  
Evermore and evermore!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: Keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

My sisters and brothers in Christ:

This spring the Paschal Full Moon falls on April 6<sup>th</sup>;  
therefore, Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, now and always.  
**Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 109, vs. 1, 2, 4 and 6: The First Nowell the Angel Did Say**

Organ: Postlude in g minor – Jon Roberts

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The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols owes its wide popularity to the first (and successive) live broadcasts beginning with Christmas Eve, 1928, from the chapel at Kings College, Cambridge. Carol services combining readings and music were an extra-devotional development in England beginning in 1880 at various parish churches and cathedrals. The Very Rev. Eric Milner-White, Dean of Kings College Chapel, assembled the service that we know today and that forms the basis for our worship this morning. His format was first used on Christmas Eve, 1918, when England and Europe were still recovering from the devastation and death of World War I. Milner-White knew first-hand the war's effects: he was a military chaplain in the conflict and the casualties from Kings College included his roommate. His arrangement of the readings tells the story of our creation, fall, and redemption through familiar and short readings, paired with anthems for choir and congregational carols. The arc of salvation is set forth from the Scripture selections and is strengthened, perhaps even surpassed, by the music. Milner-White composed the Bidding Prayer which opens the service with its haunting reference to those who had fallen in the Great War: "we remember . . . those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light . . ." Although his intent was to console his people after the horrors of war and to give them hope founded in Christian faith, he also created one of the most enduring Christmas worship services.

(text of choral works on the next page)

## Texts and Translations of Choral Works

Adam Lay ybounden – 15<sup>th</sup> century English anonymous; music, Boris Ord 1897-1961

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter, thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took. As clerkes finden, written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our ladie, abeen heav'ne  
queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was: therefore we moun singen. Deo gratias!

O Heavens, Open from Above – Genevieve Glen, OSB; music, Colin Mawby 1936-2019

O Heavens, open, open from above; let fall the silent dew. Upon our parched and desert land,  
make new the earth. O earth, break open clotted depth; let sprout the seed. From every old and  
barren soul: Make speed, O God, make speed. O God, send down justice soon; raise up your  
peace 'tis late. Let faithfulness and love embrace. We wait, O Lord we wait! We wait, O Lord, we  
wait!

O Magnum Mysterium – words, Matins responsory for Christmas Day;  
music, Timothy Michael Powell

(English translation from the Latin): O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals  
should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to  
bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

A Mystery, A Miracle – words and music, Jayne Southwick Cool b. 1947

A mystery, a miracle, both human and divine, completely inexplicable, a wonder and a sign,  
impossible to understand, so ordinary, yet so grand: Mary's boy, Joseph's joy, child sent from  
Heaven, Son of God, Emmanuel. A feeling of amazement, mingled with a sense of awe, is what  
Judean shepherds felt, surprised at what they saw. In fields outside of Bethlehem an angel came  
and said to them, "Do not fear; I bring cheer, news of great joy, for your Savior's born today."  
A company of Heavenly hosts at once came into view. To recognize God's majesty is what they  
came to do, to spread God's glory all around, proclaiming peace on earthly ground, peace for all,  
great and small, those who believe and on whom God's favor rests. God's peace is not a  
guarantee of outward happiness, a deeper and more lasting peace is what we can profess, a  
peace to fill the mind and heart that only Jesus can impart. Once concealed, now revealed, God's  
plan for peace is assured by faith in Christ. This holy child, this Prince of peace, brought  
righteousness to earth, and justice, mercy, grace, and truth accompanied his birth. We are now  
reconciled and free to live in Christian unity. All rejoice with one voice, "Jesus is born, Son of  
God, Emmanuel."