



## **THE CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL & SAINT GEORGE THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL**



### **A VIRTUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Chaplain:** Welcome to this virtual service of Lessons and Carols here at the Duke of York's Royal Military School. We are delighted that you are able to join with us.

At this Christmas time, let us prepare ourselves to hear again, in word and song, the good tidings of God's redeeming love, made known to us through the birth of the Holy Child of Bethlehem; and with the angelic host let us give glory to God in the highest.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the world: for peace and goodwill on earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church, especially in this Military Chapel of St Michael and St George; for love and harmony in our School, our families and our homes; and for a blessing on all who are dear to us and for loved ones far from home.

Let us also remember at this time, those for whom Christmas brings little joy: the poor and homeless; the hungry and destitute; the sick and those who mourn; and all who suffer under tyranny and oppression.

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 whom with the Lord Jesus, we are for ever one.

Let us gather up these prayers in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**All: 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 today our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Chaplain:** May Almighty God bless us with His grace and may Christ grant us all the joy of everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

**THE 1<sup>st</sup> LESSON: "The Birth of Jesus", read by an Assistant Principal.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*(Luke 2: 1-7)*

***First Carol: Once in Royal David's City.***

**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.

**All**

***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.***

***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.***

***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.  
Where like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.***

*Words: C.F. Alexander (1818-1895). Music: H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)*

**THE 2<sup>nd</sup> LESSON: "The Shepherds", read by an Assistant Principal.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, '*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!*'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*(Luke 2: 8-20)*

***Second Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**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:**

*(Chorus)*

**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:**

*(Chorus)*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, in the highest:**

*(Chorus)*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

*(Chorus)*

Words and music: JF Wade (1711-86)

## **THE BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LIGHTING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH.**

**Chaplain:** Our School advent wreath consists of five candles; four outer ones, surrounding the fifth inner one. The four outer candles reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ - The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John the Baptist and The Virgin Mary. The fifth candle, represents Christ.

*The Candle is lit.*

**Chaplain:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest.

**All: Amen.**

### **THE 3<sup>rd</sup> LESSON: "The Visit of the Wise Men", read by a Vice Principal.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was afraid, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.*'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way. *(Matthew 2:1-12)*

**Third Carol: Solo:** "O Holy Night" sung by Tisean Crichlow.

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

#### **THE 4<sup>th</sup> LESSON: "The Word Became Flesh", read by The Principal**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *(John 1:1-14)*

#### **THE BLESSING**

May the spirit of Christmas bring us peace,  
The gladness of Christmas give us hope,  
The warmth of Christmas grant us love  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and remain with us `always,  
now and forever more.

**All: Amen.**

***Organ Voluntary. "Sortie in E flat".***

LJA Lefebure-Wely (1817-1869)