

21 December 2020

18.00



CHRISTMAS CAROLS
FROM THE PALACES
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

from
HM Chapels Royal at Hampton Court Palace
and the Tower of London



WELCOME TO OUR FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

One of the many things that make the palaces cared for by Historic Royal Palaces so special is that they are home to two of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal establishments at Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London, where their history stretches back to the Norman monarchs. They are thriving places of worship, and an unforgettable part of any visit.

The Authorised Version of the Bible in English, from which our readings are taken, is also part of the palaces' story. It was the 1604 Hampton Court Conference that resulted in the publication of the 'King James Bible' in 1611.

Our readers reflect the spirit of the palaces today and include members of staff, representatives of partner organisations in our local communities, residents and friends. The musicians performing this evening are testament to the continued flourishing of the chapels and we pay tribute to their skill and dedication.

We are grateful to all those whose generosity has made Christmas Carols from the Palaces possible. We would like to thank our Christmas Carols from the Palaces 'angels', and all those who have made donations.

At the end of a troubled year that has affected all of us in so many ways, we hope you will find Christmas Carols from the Palaces a moment for reflection, togetherness, peace and joy.

JOHN BARNES

Chief Executive
Historic Royal Palaces

REVD CANON ROGER HALL MBE

Deputy Priest in Ordinary
Canon of the Chapels Royal within the Tower of London

REVD CANON ANTHONY HOWE

Deputy Priest in Ordinary
Canon of the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court

Hymn

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.

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.

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.

Words: C.F. Alexander
Music: H.J. Gauntlett;
harmonised by A.H. Mann;
descant by D. Willcocks

Soloist: Chloë Morgan

Bidding prayer

Revd Canon Roger Hall MBE

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

English traditional carol, arranged by R. Vaughan Williams
Soloist: David le Prevost

First Lesson: Genesis 3.8-15, 17-19

Read by Sir David Suchet CBE, a member of the congregation
of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Carol: Adam lay ybounden

Words: 15th-century
Music: Boris Ord

Second Lesson: Genesis 22.15-18

Read by Tracy Borman, Co-Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces

Carol: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

English traditional carol, arranged by Stuart Nicholson
Soloist: Victoria Meteyard

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Read by Sophie Baylis, Music and
Choir Co-Ordinator, Hampton Court Palace

Carol: The holly and the ivy

English traditional carol arranged by Christopher Robinson

Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

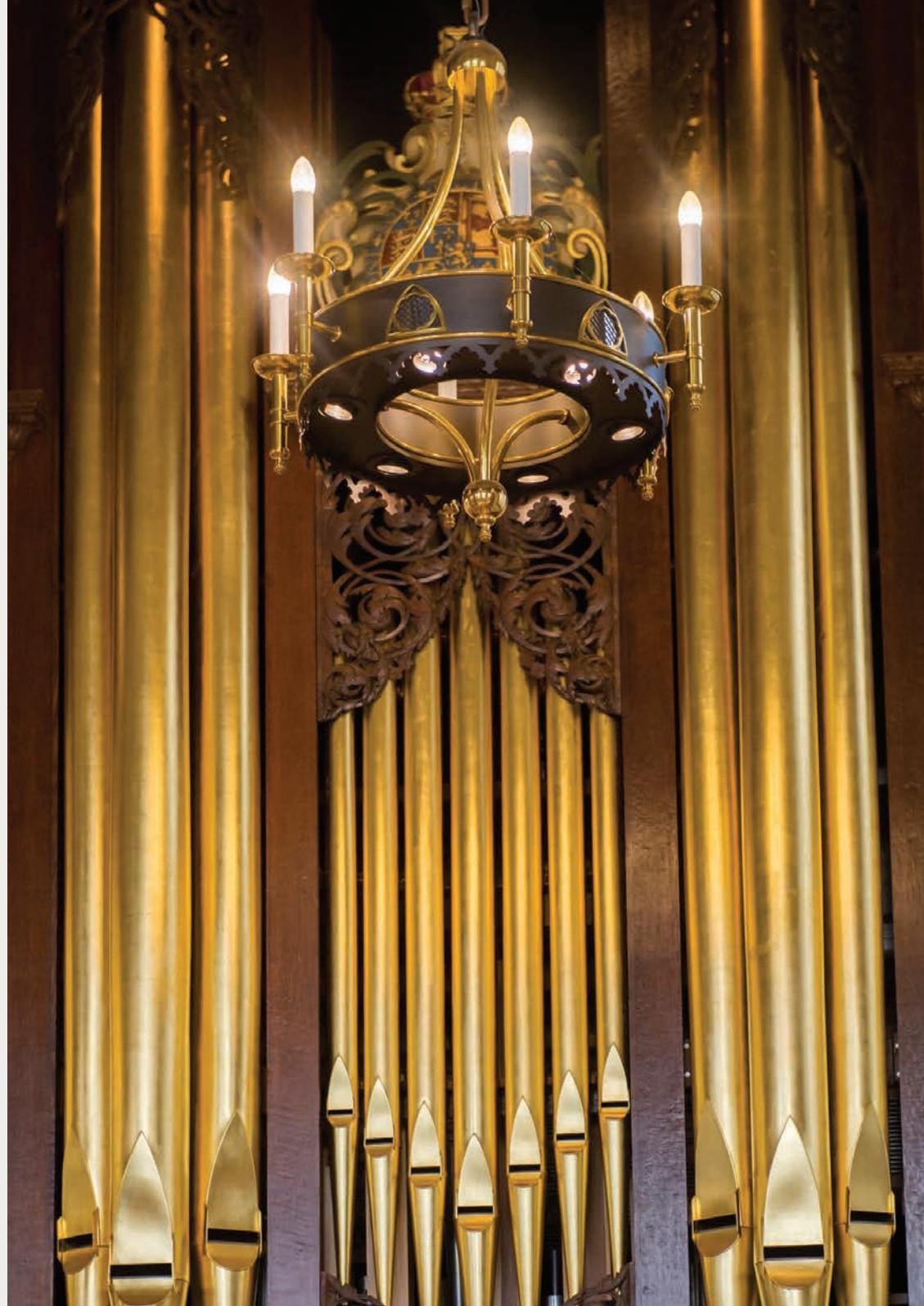
From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born:
the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
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 deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy

*English traditional carol
arranged by David Willcocks*



Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11.1-4a, 6-9

Read by the Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Dame Sarah Mullaly DBE,
Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapels Royal

Carol: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Medieval German carol, arranged by David Blackwell

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1.26-35, 38

Read by Tina Johnston, Co-Ordinator Positive Aging at Blackfriars
Settlement, Community Partners of Historic Royal Palaces

Carol: Angelus ad virginem

Medieval carol, arranged by Andrew Carter

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2.1-7

Read by Judith Phillips, Tower resident and member of the
congregation of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Carol: Glory to the Christ Child

Alan Bullard



Hymn

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 wondering 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!

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: Traditional, arranged by R. Vaughan Williams and T. Armstrong

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2.8-16

Read by Rebecca Tallon De Havilland, Leader of Project Bootcamp
@56 Dean Street, Community Partners of Historic Royal Palaces

Carol: Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?

French traditional carol, arranged by George McPhee

Hymn

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,
three wisemen came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

*English traditional carol,
arranged by David Willcocks*

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2.1-12

Read by Peter McGowran, Chief Yeoman Warder

Carol: Bethlehem Down

Words: Bruce Blunt
Music: Peter Warlock

Ninth Lesson: John 1.1-14

Read by Revd Canon Anthony Howe

Hymn

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.

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest.

*Words and music J.F. Wade;
descant by Christopher Robinson*

Collect and blessing

Revd Canon Anthony Howe

Hymn

Hark! the herald-angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise!
Join the triumph of the skies!
With the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

*Hark! the herald-angels sing:
Glory to the new-born King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen 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.

*Words: Charles Wesley et al.
Music: F. Mendelssohn; arranged by David Willcocks*

Organ voluntary: Carillon-Sortie by Henri Mulet

Performed by Christian Wilson

The Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace

CHAPLAIN

Revd Canon Anthony Howe

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Carl Jackson MVO
(Organist)

ORGANIST AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Rufus Frowde
(Choral direction)

CHAPEL CLERK AND VERGER

James Harris

The Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

CHAPLAIN

Revd Canon Roger Hall MBE

MASTER OF MUSIC

Colm Carey

ASSISTANT MASTER OF MUSIC

Christian Wilson

Historic Royal Palaces

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT

Simon Daniels

PRODUCTION

Blind Crow Pictures



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