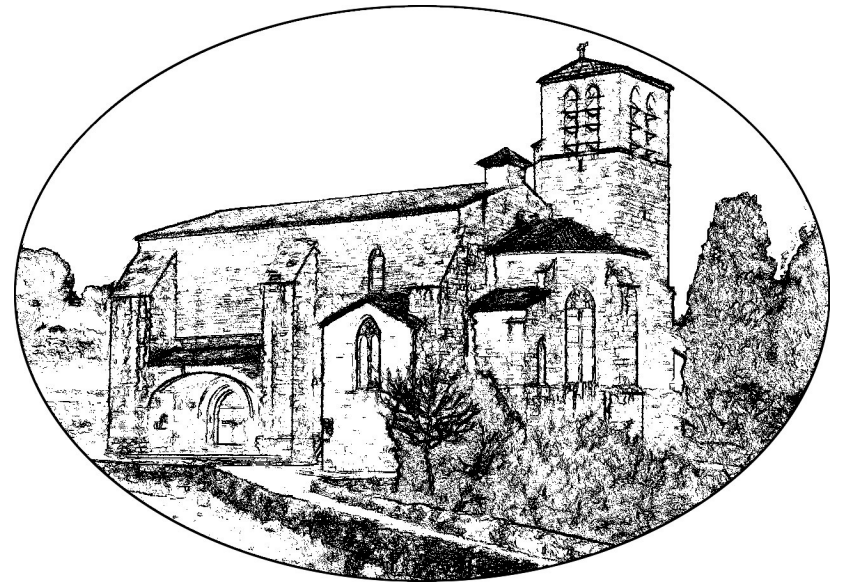


Festival
of
Nine Lessons
and
Carols



l'Église Saint-Hippolyte de Fontès
13 December 2015
at 3 pm

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

For many people the festive season would not be complete without a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. These are held across the world and our gorgeous region here in the real South of France is no exception: we are very pleased to welcome you to this beautiful church of Saint-Hippolyte for the 15th such service to be held here.

In the late 19th century there was a revival of carol singing at Christmas time. Carols, which had often been folk-religion songs, were gradually incorporated into the life of the church. The original service of Nine Lessons and Carols was devised by Edward Benson, Bishop of Truro, and first used in what was then the new Truro Cathedral on Christmas Eve 1880. His service was modified in 1918 for use in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, by its Dean, the Very Reverend Eric Milner-White.

Because of their mixed origins, some words in our carols are fanciful and not to be found in the Bible! In Britain the Puritans had banned them, although they were still sung in secret, but most of the really well known English language carols date from the 19th century, as do translations of carols from other languages.

Some of the English language that we shall hear today is old-fashioned. The ease of understanding of modern language has its proper place; but when the intention is to convey wonder and mystery, the more measured and poetic language of our forebears can help to add that extra dimension. Its traditional nature is one of the reasons that the service is loved by so many. Maybe it recalls Christmases of long ago, when we seemed to live life at a slower pace. Or perhaps it's because it's something that stays the same in an ever-changing world.

The family of Jesus were refugees in a part of the world that is still a place of turmoil, with repercussions all over the world, including recently in Paris. And the Church down the ages has often failed to live up to the ideals of its founder, whose birth we are here to celebrate. But if you read the Bible you will find that this gentle man called Jesus told us "love your neighbour, do good to those that hate you". His teachings are still relevant and important to us all today.

So let it be our care and delight 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.

The Church of Saint-Hippolyte, Fontès

The parish and the chateau are mentioned in writings as early as 1080 and the early sanctuary was situated within the village walls. In 1299 it is said that Guiraud of Lodève laid the first stone of the present Church.

The Church is a fine example of southern French Gothic architecture. The exterior of the building is rather austere, but on entering the building one is left with an impression of the surprising lightness and elegance of the interior. The master builders were able to assimilate the new Gothic techniques whilst retaining their Romanesque traditions.



Another church event in English

Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 17 December at 6.30 pm at Ste-Ursule church, Rue Henri Reboul, Pézenas, with festive refreshments afterwards

English language church services in the Hérault

All Saints, Hérault (Church of England)

2nd Sunday of each month at the Temple, Saint-Pargoire, at 10.30 am

Telephone: 09 60 40 13 51 Mobile: 06 60 24 54 57

E-mail: achstp@gmail.com

Website: www.heraultenglishchurch.fr

Simply Church

2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 10 am (see website)

Mobile: 06 04 13 14 76

E-mail: info@simplychurch.fr

Website: www.simplychurch.fr

Please turn off your mobile phone for the duration of this service

Carol 1: Once in Royal David's City

Please stand to sing this carol. The first verse will be a solo and the second choir only: please join in from the third verse.

*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.*

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.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

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.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander. Music: Henry John Gauntlett

Welcome from the village of Fontès

Introduction & Bidding Prayer

*The Bidding Prayer concludes with all praying the Lord's Prayer:
(La Prière d'Intention se termine avec la Prière du Seigneur:)*

**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 this day 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.**

**Notre Père qui es aux cieux,
que ton Nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre
pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi
à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous soumetts pas à la
tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent
le règne,
la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles.
Amen.**

Please remain standing

Closing Prayer & The Blessing

Carol 11: 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:

*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:

O come ...

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

O come ...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God, in the highest:

O come ...

*Text: probably John Francis Wade, translated Frederick Oakeley
Music: probably John Francis Wade*

We are very grateful to our choir this afternoon, Appassionata, and our organist, Jouke van der Veer.

Please join us for a mince pie and a glass of wine

Carol 10: Hark, the herald-angels sing

During this carol a collection will be taken for CCAS, a charity working for people in need in Fontès [au cours de ce prochain chant il y aura une quête au profit de CCAS, pour gens dans le besoin à Fontès]

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.

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

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.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

*Text: Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, Martin Madan and others
Music: adapted from Felix Mendelssohn by William Hayman Cummings*

Carol 2: O come, O come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice ...

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice ...

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice ...

*Text: from the Great O Antiphons (12th-13th C), translated John Mason Neale
Music: adapted by Thomas Helmore from a French Missal*

Lesson 1: Genesis 3.8-15

Adam and Eve: an ancient story that attempts to explain why we human beings are so often sinful and why we need the salvation that Christ offers.

Carol 3: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: "Hyfrydol", Rowland Huw Pritchard (1811-1887)

Lesson 2: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

Isaiah prophesies: "unto us a child is born"

Anthem: The Angel Gabriel - based on a Basque traditional carol
sung by Appassionata

Lesson 3: Isaiah 11.1-9

Isaiah prophesies concerning the peace that Christ will bring

Lesson 8: Matthew 2.1-11

Wise men are led to Jesus by a star

Carol 9: We three kings of Orient are

All:

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
following yonder star.

All:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Men:

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again -
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

All:

O star ...

Ladies:

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh:
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God most high.

All:

O star ...

Men:

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

All:

O star ...

All:

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice!
heaven sings alleluia,
alleluia the earth replies.

All:

O star ...

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins

Please stand for Lesson 9:

Lesson 9: John 1.1-14

John's poetic unfolding of the Incarnation

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Text & music: William James Kirkpatrick

Lesson 7: Luke 2.8-16

Shepherds go to the manger: this Lesson will be read in French.

Carol 8: In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him:
give my heart.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breast full of milk,
and a manger full of hay:
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934).

Carol 4: Les anges dans nos campagnes

1. Les an - ges da - ns nos cam - pag - nes ont ent - on - né l' - hym - ne des cieux,
2. Berg - ers, pour qu - i ce - tte fê - te? Quel est l'ob - jet d - e tous ces chants?
3. Ils an - non - ce - nt la nais - san - ce du li - bé - ra - te - ur d'Is - ra - ël

Et l'éc - ho d - e nos mon - tag - nes re - dit ce chant m - é - lo - di - eux
Quel vain - queur, que - lle con - quê - te mé - ri - te ces cr - is tri - om - phants
et pleins de r - e - con - nais - san - ce chan - tent en ce jo - ur so - len - nel

Glo - ri - a
in exc - el - sis De - o
Glo - ri - a
in exc - el - sis De - o

Les anges dans nos campagnes
Ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,
Et l'écho de nos montagnes
Redit ce chant mélodieux :
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête
Mérite ces cris triomphants :
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Ils annoncent la naissance
Du libérateur d'Israël
Et pleins de reconnaissance
Chantent en ce jour solennel :
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

18th century French carol

Lesson 4: Luke 1.26-38

The annunciation: an angel appears to Mary

Carol 5: O little town of Bethlehem

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.

Text: Phillips Brooks

Music: traditional English melody collected and arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lesson 5: Matthew 1.18-23

Matthew sets the scene for the birth of Jesus

Anthem: Christmas Lullaby - John Rutter

sung by Appassionata

Carol 6: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia: Christ, the Saviour is born, Christ, the Saviour is born.
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Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, trans John Freeman Young. Music: Franz Grüber

Lesson 6: Luke 2.1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus: this, the central Lesson in our service this afternoon, will be read in both English and French.

Carol 7: Away in a manger

Parents: please send (or bring) your children to the front for this carol. We should like the children to sing the first verse for us: please join in quietly with the other verses.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.