



FINE MUSIC RADIO  
101.3

**PRESENTS**

# A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**18h00**  
**24 December 2016**



**Performed by VOX Cape Town**  
**in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town**

## ABOUT VOX CAPE TOWN

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**To continue the choral legacy of the St George's Singers, led for over fifty years by Dr Barry Smith, a new singing group formed under the direction of John Woodland in July 2015.**

VOX Cape Town will span musical history in its focus on a cappella works, oratorios and local compositions to enrich the musical life of Cape Town. VOX intends to invigorate



choral music through imaginative programming and staging to create an intimate, immersive sensory experience. For more information or to join VOX's mailing list, visit their website at [www.voxcapetown.com](http://www.voxcapetown.com).

**Soprano:** Suzanne Buchanan, Jenny Coote, Maryanne McLachlan, Stephanie Pulker, Jenni van Doesburgh, Anthea van Wieringen  
**Alto:** Mascha Ainslie, Helene Cooke, Karen Hahne, Lesley Jennings, Jennifer Matlock  
**Tenor:** Tobias Hahne, Roger Hunter, Michael Marchant, Owen Rogers  
**Bass:** Chris Arnold, Shaun February, Brent Johnson, Aaron Juritz, David Patrick, Kyle Paulssen, Johan van der Walt  
**Director/Organ:** John Woodland

## THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

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**The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It is told through nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas hymns and carols. The format was based on an order of service drawn up in 1880 which has since been adapted by churches all over the world. The best-known version is broadcast annually on Christmas Eve by the BBC from King's College, Cambridge.**

Every year, VOX Cape Town celebrates two Festivals of Nine Lessons and Carols in December. The second of these traditionally takes place at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Somerset Road, Cape Town, and

continues the tradition led for many years by the St George's Singers. VOX intends to give the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols a South African flavour alongside traditional congregational favourites such as "Once in royal David's city" and "Hark! The herald-angels sing".

## **ABOUT ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**S**t Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town, is the mother church of Presbyterianism in South Africa. It was built with the assistance of the British Government as a Scottish Presbyterian Church and opened in 1828 for the Scottish community including the Scottish garrison in Cape Town which was well represented in the church. As a result of the latter, St Andrew's is still the regimental church of the Cape Highlanders. Their roll of honour is kept there and their flags are laid up in the church.

St Andrew's has a beautiful organ that is over a century old and is used in two services every Sunday – an Afrikaans service at 09h00 and an English service at 10h30. St Andrew's also hosts a service on Christmas Day at 09h30. The church may be contacted on 021 419 1059.

## **ORGAN PRELUDE**

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**"Offertoire sur les grands jeux" (*Messe pour les Couvents*)**

*François Couperin (1668-1733)*

## **OPENING HYMN**

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**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.

**Choir** 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.

**All** 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.

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

*First verse sung by Stephanie Pulker*

*Words by C. F. Alexander*

*Music by H. J. Gauntlett and arranged by David Willcocks*

# THE BIDDING PRAYER

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*Read by Reverend Natalie van Rooyen:*

**B**eloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this Church glad with our carols of praise.

But let us first pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

## CAROL

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**“Come, thou Redeemer of the earth”**

*Traditional melody adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)  
and arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## FIRST LESSON

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*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise  
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

GENESIS 3:8-15 (Read by Aaron Juritz)

## CAROL

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**“Senzenina?”**

Senzenina? – “What have we done?”  
Sonosethu yinyaniso – “Our sin is the truth”

*South African freedom song arranged by Pete Seeger*

## SECOND LESSON

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*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed  
shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

GENESIS 22:15-18 (Read by Jenni van Doesburgh)

## CAROL

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**“I wonder as I wander”**

*Solo sung by Michael Marchant*

*Appalachian carol arranged by John Rutter (b. 1945)*

## THIRD LESSON

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*God the prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

ISAIAH 9:2,4-7 (Read by Anthea van Wieringen)

## HYMN

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All      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 Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:  
                    *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! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
                    *shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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

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

*Melody from a French Missal (1856)*

*Words from Latin Advent Antiphons translated by J. M. Neale*

## FOURTH LESSON

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*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

MICAH 5:1-3 (Read by David Patrick)

## HYMN

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**All** 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.*

Silent night, holy night:  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
*Christ the Saviour is born.*

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!*

*Music by Franz Xaver Gruber (1818)*

*Words by Joseph Mohr (1816)*



## FIFTH LESSON

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*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

ST LUKE 1:26-38 (Read by Dr Barry Smith)

## CAROL

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**“Bogoróditse Djévo” (from *All-Night Vigil*)**

Rejoice, O mother of God.  
Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
For thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

## SIXTH LESSON

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*St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

ST MATTHEW 1:18-23 (Read by Lesley Jennings)

## CAROL

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**“O magnum mysterium”**

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
That animals should see the new-born Lord,  
Lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
Was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

*Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)*

# HYMN

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**All** 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 wond'ring love.

**Choir** How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

**All** 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.

*English traditional tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Words by Bishop Phillips Brooks*

## SEVENTH LESSON

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*The shepherds go to the manger.*

ST LUKE 2:8-16 (Read by Kyle Paulssen)

## HYMN

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**All** While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

**Men** 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.'

**All** 'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign.'

**Ladies** 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

**All** Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:  
  
'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*Music from Este's Psalter (1592)*  
*Words by Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

## CAROL

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**“Torches!”**

*John Joubert (b. 1927, South Africa)*

*with words from the Galician translated by J. B. Trend*

## EIGHTH LESSON

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*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

ST MATTHEW 2:1-11 (Read by Michael Marchant)

## HYMN

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**All**      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.  
*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
'Glory to God in the highest.'  
*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

*Music arranged by David Willcocks (composer unknown)*  
*Words translated by F. Oakeley and W. T. Brooke*

## NINTH LESSON

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*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

ST JOHN 1:1-14 (Read by Reverend Douglas Bax)

## CAROL

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**“Come, Colours Rise”**

*Accompanied by Grant McLachlan*

*Music by Grant McLachlan (b. 1956, South Africa)*  
*with words by Frank Barry*

## THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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*Read by Reverend Natalie van Rooyen:*

**O** God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

---

**M**ay he who by his incarnation gathered into one, things early and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## FINAL HYMN

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**All**        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.*

*Music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) arranged by David Willcocks  
Words by Charles Wesley and others*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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### ***“Toccata” (12 Pièces pour Orgue)***

*Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)*



*Recorded by Nolan Chiat on 12 December 2016  
in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Cape Town*

*VOX is grateful to Mark Jennings, Rodney Trudgeon  
and the team at FMR for making this broadcast possible*

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