

Carol: Gaudete

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!

Solo: Erin Cederlind (Tambourine: Fran Laenen)
Tune from Piaë Cantiones (1582) arranged by Michael McGlynn

Collect and Blessing

Hymn: Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

All Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Refrain

All Hail the heav'n-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.
Refrain

Words by C. Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan and others
Music by Mendelssohn with descant by David Willcocks

Organ Voluntary

Toccatà from 'Three Pieces for Organ'

Henk Temmingh (b. 1939, Netherlands/South Africa)



If you enjoyed this musical presentation, please connect with us on social media @VOXCapeTown or write to us at hello@voxcapetown.com. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to take a souvenir home with you (a perfect stocking-filler!), our CDs are available afterwards. VOX Cape Town's recordings may also be found on all major streaming platforms.

Since 2016, Fine Music Radio has broadcast our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, bringing this celebration to a much wider audience. This year, the broadcast will commence at 7 PM and an order of service may be downloaded from our website, www.voxcapetown.com.

We wish you and your family a safe, happy and music-filled festive season!



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF VOX IN 2025

'Phases, Phrases, and Palindromes'
Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 7:30 PM

At this lecture-performance, presented by Grant McLachlan as part of the UCT Summer School, we sing exquisite music by Arvo Pärt and John Tavener in the Baxter Concert Hall
BOOKINGS VIA WEBTICKETS

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

with VOX Cape Town



Sunday 8 December 2024 at 11 AM

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
De Waterkant

Soprano: Suzanne Buchanan, Erin Cederlind, Megan Gardner, Lia Hall, Sally Hofmeyr, Fran Laenen, Maryanne McLachlan, Kirsten Rowe, Anna Telford, Carol Williams
Alto: Samantha Ash, Suzie Cameron, Tessa Gawith, Christina Goodall, Amy Hoffenberg, Jessica Lambert, Xoli Mabombo-Benson, Jennifer Matlock, Sarah McArthur, James Nilsen-Misra, Anthea van Wieringen, Jean Westwood, Karin-Marie Wilson
Tenor: Matt Beck, Dane Bezuidenhout, Dirk Binneman, Peter Borchers, Casey Driver, Renugan Raidoo, Kyle Paulssen, Bevan Timm
Bass: Chris Arnold, Jan Buys, Martin Els, Wim Greyvenstein, Aaron Juritz, John Rennie, Evan Strauss, Louis Swart, Stefan van der Westhuizen
Founder and Artistic Director: John Woodland
Organist: Mikyle Adams

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 December, VOX Cape Town presents a local adaptation of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, De Waterkant, continuing the tradition led for many years by Barry Smith and the St George's Singers.

About this year's selection of music

This year, to mark nine years of VOX's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, we have taken a trip down memory lane and selected one carol from each of our previous presentations, plus one new item to represent 2024 – *The Crown of Roses* by Tchaikovsky. It is 135 years since this hauntingly beautiful carol was first arranged by the composer for a cappella (unaccompanied) choir in 1889.

Hence, this year's selection of music brings together some of our favourite music from over the years while also extending the theme that has linked many of our performances in 2024 – music inspired by the splendour and vulnerability of the natural world, here reflected in various symbols which take on a new meaning in the context of this service, such as the apple (representing the Fall of Humanity), the lamb (representing the innocence and purity of Christ) and the rose (representing Mary).

As always, VOX champions the music of living choral composers – such as Howard Skempton (b. 1947) and Philip Stopford (b. 1977) – while honouring our South African roots with John Joubert's spirited *Torches* and an isiXhosa translation of the gentle *Cradle Hymn*, together with the inclusion of traditional favourites such as *In Dulci Jubilo* and *Gaudete*, both of which originate from the distant past.

As a nod to the future – next year we celebrate our tenth anniversary! – is music by Arvo Pärt (who, incidentally, also marks a big birthday in 2025) and Sir John Tavener, both of whom have featured prominently in our immersive performances over the years and whose music will form the cornerstone of our performance in the Baxter Concert Hall as part of the UCT Summer School in January.

Another highlight of every Nine Lessons and Carols is the organ music presented by Mikyle Adams – this year, with a strong local flavour as exemplified by the recessional *Toccata* by Henk Temmingh (b. 1939) which concludes the service, and a chorale prelude on the famous Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, by Hendrik Hofmeyr (b. 1957) which begins our magical, musical journey today.



Organ Preludes

Carol Fantasia

David Blackwell (b. 1961, England)

O Kom, O Kom, Immanuel

Hendrik Hofmeyr (b. 1957, South Africa)



About the organist

Mikyle Adams earned his Bachelor of Music degree with distinction in organ from the University of Cape Town in 2021 under Grant Bräsler. He has performed at prominent venues including St George's Cathedral and the Cape Town City Hall and was a Unisa Music Competition finalist in 2019. A recipient of the South African Church and Concert Organists' Society bursary, Mikyle is Secretary of the Royal School of Church Music (Cape Town branch) and Head of Music at The Pinelands Primary School. Currently pursuing an MMus degree, his research explores the development of passacaglias by German and South African composers.

About St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and its organ

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 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. As a result of the latter, St Andrew's is still the regimental church of the Cape Town Highlanders; their roll of honour is kept there and their flags are laid up in the church.

The organ was built by P. Conacher & Co. of Huddersfield and was installed in 1887. In 1925, G.W. Price & Son replaced the original tracker action with a new tubular pneumatic action. The organ was restored in 2012 by Charles Hart of Cooper, Gill & Tomkins, replacing Price's tubular pneumatic action with an electropneumatic action. This work was completed with funding courtesy of the Rupert Music Foundation.

Ubi sunt gaudia / In any place but there?
There are angels singing / Nova cantica
And there the bells are ringing / In regis curia.
O that we were there!

German traditional carol arranged by J. S. Bach

Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

St Matthew 2:1–12

Read by John Woodland

Carol: Torches

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

Words from the Galician and translated by J. B. Trend
Music by John Joubert (1927–2019, South Africa/England)

PLEASE STAND

Ninth Lesson

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

St John 1:1–14

Read by Reverend Natalie Gordon

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

All God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
Refrain

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

All Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

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

Carol: Thula! Nunu, Zola Ulale

Hush! My dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.
Lullaby, lullaby; hush, my baby, lullaby.

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care or payment:
All thy wants are well supplied.

Soft and easy is thy cradle:
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable
And His softest bed was hay.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;
Lovely infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.

*Words by Isaac Watts (1674–1748, England)
Music by Malcom Archer (b. 1952, England)
Translated into isiXhosa by Folio Translation Consultants*

Hymn: Away In A Manger

All **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.**

Choir 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.

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

*Words anon.
Tune by W. J. Kirkpatrick arranged by David Willcocks*

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

St Luke 2:8–16

Read by Xoli Mabombo-Benson

Carol: In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo, / Now sing with hearts aglow!
Our delight and pleasure / Lies in praesepio
Like sunshine is our treasure / Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule, / For thee I long alway;
Comfort my heart's blindness, / O puer optime,
With all thy loving kindness, / O princeps gloriae.
Trahe me poste!

O patris caritas! / O nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stained / Per nostra crimina;
But thou for us hast gained / Coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there!

PLEASE STAND

Hymn: 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.

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.**

All **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.**

All **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.**

All **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.**

*Solo: Lia Hall
Words by C. F. Alexander
Music by H. J. Gauntlett arranged by A. H. Mann/D. Willcocks*

The Bidding Prayer

PLEASE SIT

First Lesson

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, 17–19

Read by Aaron Juritz

Carol: Adam Lay Ybounden

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 lady, / A been heaven's queen.

Blessed be the time / That apple taken was.
Therefore we may sing: *Deo gratias!*

*Words from 15th-century England (Sloane MS 2593, British Library)
Music by Howard Skempton (b. 1947, England)*

Second Lesson

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

Genesis 22:15–18

Read by Anthea van Wieringen

Carol: The Crown Of Roses

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein he cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summertime drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

'Do you bind roses in your hair?'
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.
The boy said humbly: 'Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away.'

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on his forehead fair and young
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

*Words by Plechtchéev translated by G. Dearmer
Music by P. I. Tchaikovsky (1840–1893, Russia)*

Third Lesson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Isaiah 9:2,6–7

Read by Dirk Binneman

Carol: The Lamb

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Does thou know who made thee?

Little lamb, I'll tell thee;
Little lamb, I'll tell thee;
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild,
He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.

Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, God bless thee!

*Words by William Blake (1757–1827, England)
Music by Sir John Tavener (1944–2013, England)*

Hymn: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

**All God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**All From God our heav'nly 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,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**All The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy...**

**Choir 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...**

**All 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 D. Willcocks

Fourth Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1–4,6–9

Read by Suzanne Buchanan

Carol: There Is No Rose

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu; *Alleluia*.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space; *Res miranda*.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three; *Pares forma*.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! *Gaudeamus*.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth; *Transeamus*.

*Words from the 15th century
Music by Philip Stopford (b. 1977, England)*

Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Luke 1:26–35,38

Read by Mikyle Adams

Carol: Bogoróditse Djévo

Rejoice, O 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.

Music by Arvo Pärt (b. 1935, Estonia)

Sixth Lesson

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

St Matthew 1:18–25

Read by Lesley Jennings

Meditation

**Zu Bethlehem Geboren
(‘Born in Bethlehem’)**

Music by Helmut Walcha (1907–1991)