

# *Waiting in Joyful Hope*

## Advent & Christmas Traditions

### Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a Christian worship service that is traditionally held in anticipation of Christmas. The “Lessons” are nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books of the Bible, and the Gospels, which tell the story of Salvation History, beginning with the fall from grace of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the promise of the Messiah, and ultimately the birth of Jesus Christ. The Scripture readings are interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and traditional choral music.

The original “Lessons & Carols” liturgy began in the Anglican Church, and it is most popular in England as a result. It is said that the original order was created by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1880 to be performed on Christmas Eve of that year in order to keep men out of the pubs. Since that time, versions of “Lessons and Carols” have been adapted by other Christian churches and performed in anticipation of Christmas. **St. Petronille will host “Lessons & Carols on December 7 at 3:00 PM with the combined choirs of St. Petronille, St. Michael, Wheaton, Sacred Heart, Lombard, and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Glen Ellyn being directed by the English composer Philip Stopford.**

"Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols". [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk). 16 December 2005.

Jump Up. Alex Webb (24 December 2001), *Choir that sings to the world*, BBC News.