

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 22, 2024

4:00 P.M.

WELCOME to this special service. We are very grateful to you for coming to share with us in this wonderful occasion which is an act of worship for us here at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Before the service begins, please note the following requests:

☞ If you have a mobile phone, please double-check that it is turned off. The same applies to chiming watches or other devices.

☞ After the service, if you desire, please leave a donation. All donations go to support the ministries of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

☞ In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the church, please follow the directions of the ushers, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.

Finally, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and add that if you would like to join us for our Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m., with a carol sing beginning at 4:30 p.m., you will be most welcome.

Reverend Diane Carroll

History of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

THE Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's College, in Cambridge, England, after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised the College's Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced by successive Organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Sir Philip Ledger, 1974–82; Stephen Cleobury, 1982–2019; and Daniel Hyde from 2019. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880.

A. C. Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop'. The idea had come from G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel.

Sometime in the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the United Kingdom. In recent years it has become the practice to broadcast a recording of the service on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963 a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame. In these and other ways the service has become public property. From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as 'the place where the Carols are sung'.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer; and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

¶ The congregation is asked not to talk during the music which is played before the service, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Prelude - Selections of seasonal music will be played by organ and by organ and bassoon.

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 102

¶ The congregation stands, so that all are silent when the hymn starts.

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.

¶ The congregation is invited to join in from verse 3.

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

Words, CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER
Melody, HENRY JOHN GAUNTLETT
Harmonized, ARTHUR HENRY MANN
Descant and Organ Part, DAVID WILLCOCKS

BIDDING PRAYER

Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.

Reverend Diane Carroll

BELOVED IN CHRIST, at this Christmas-tide 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.

Therefore 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.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

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

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

All

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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reverend Diane Carroll

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.

All **Amen.**

¶ **The congregation sits.**

CAROL *MARY'S LULLABY*

SEE the child that Mary bore
On her lap so softly sleeping:
In a stable cold and poor,
Ox and ass their vigil keeping.

*Sing lullaby, sing lullaby,
My own dear son, my child;
Lullaby, sing lullaby;
Lullaby, my little baby.*

Flights of angels round His head
Sing him joyful hymns of greeting:
Peace on earth, goodwill to men.
Each to each the song repeating.

Refrain.

Shepherd's kneeling by his bed
Offer homage without measure;
Wise men, by a bright star led,
Bring him gifts of richest treasure.

Refrain.

Words and Music, JOHN RUTTER

FIRST LESSON

READER: ELLEN KIRBY

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

GENESIS 3

AND they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words, RICHARD HUTCHINS

Compiled, JOSHUA SMITH, FROM *DIVINE HYMNS, OR SPIRITUAL SONGS*

Music, ELIZABETH POSTON

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
Abeen heavenè queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

Words, XV CENTURY

Music, BORIS ORD

SECOND LESSON

READER: BLAIRE WHANGER

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

GENESIS 22

AND the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *UP! GOOD CHRISTEN FOLK AND LISTEN*

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong: Ding-a-dong-ding

Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple bid good people
Come adore the newborn King:

Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide,

Born of mother, blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable ('tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

Words, GEORGE RATCLIFFE WOODWARD
Melody, PIAE CANTIONES
Harmonized, G. R. WOODWARD

HYMN 107 *GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE*

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

GOOD Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words, JOHN MASON NEALE
Melody, XIV CENTURY GERMAN
Harmonized, CHARLES WINIFRED DOUGLAS

¶ **The congregation sits.**

THIRD LESSON

READER: DIANA RUSSELL

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ISAIAH 9

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *DORMI, JESU*

DORMI, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu! Blandule!

*Sleep, Jesus! Mother smiles
She sees such a sweet dream,
Sleep, Jesus! Sweetly!*

Si non dormis, mater plorat,
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.

*If you don't sleep. Mother cries,
Between the threads he sings and prays,
Gentle, come, sleep.*

Sleep, sweet babe! My cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee smiling;
Sleep my darling, tenderly!

If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.

Words, THE VIRGIN'S CRADLE HYMN
Collected and Translated, SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE
Music, ALAN SPEDDING

HYMN 89 *IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR*

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

IT came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
‘Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.’
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words, EDMUND SEARS
Music, RICHARD STORRS WILLIS
Descant, JEFF WHITMILL

¶
The congregation sits.

FOURTH LESSON

READER: TOMMY TUTWILER

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ISAIAH 11

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *SUSSEX CAROL*

ON Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring-
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen'.

Music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL CAROL
Arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS

HYMN 101 *AWAY IN A MANGER*

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

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.

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.

Words, ANON.
Tune by W. J. KIRKPATRICK
Arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS

¶ **The congregation sits.**

FIFTH LESSON

READER: SANDY KIRKPATRICK

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

LUKE 1

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *ALLELUYA, A NEW WORK IS COME ON HAND*

Alleluya!
A new work is come on hand
Through might and grace of Gode's son
To save the lost of every land.
For now is free that erst was bound;
We may well sing Alleluya!

Now is fulfilled the prophecy
Of David and of Jeremy
And also of Isaiah.
Sing we therefore both loud and high
Alleluya!

Alleluya, this sweetè song
Out of a green branch it sprung.
God send us the life that lasteth long!
Now joy and bliss be him among
That thus can sing Alleluya!

Words, 15TH CENTURY
Music, PETER WISHART

CAROL *SIR CHRISTÈMAS*

NOWELL, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Who is there that singeth so, Nowell, Nowell?
I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my Lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less!
Come near, Nowell!

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:
A maid hath born a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.
Christ is now born of a pure maid;
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.

Buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.

Words, XVI CENTURY
Music, WILLIAM MATHIAS

SIXTH LESSON

READER: JOHN HODGES

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

LUKE 2

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL*

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth
And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*

'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem;
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?'

Refrain.

'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?'"
'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
'In the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

Refrain.

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?'

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.'*

Words and Music, JOHN RUTTER

HYMN 78 *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

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, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Arranged, R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Descant, THOMAS ARMSTRONG

¶ **The congregation sits.**

SEVENTH LESSON

READER: JIM RUSSELL

The shepherds go to the manger.

LUKE 2

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *WAS I THE LAMB*

Was I the lamb who woke that night
When angels sang and all was bright,
And slowly raised my sleepy head
Out of my warm and sheltered bed?

Was I the Lamb who was astray
Till holy star did light my way,
And gently then the shepherds bore
Safe in their arms to the stable door?

Was I the lamb who saw the kings
Bear the first gifts that Christmas brings
To set before a baby born
That first and precious Christmas morn?

Was I the lamb who kept his vigil
As God's holy mother slept,
And as her single tear did fall
She dreamed that he would redeem us all.

Was I the lamb amid the hay
Beside the manger where he lay,
Who curled where Mary's feet had trod,
And bowed my head before the Lamb of God?

Words, M. R. BRATCHER
Music, JOHN RUTTER

HYMN 95 *WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS*

¶ Sung by all, standing.

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

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

‘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:’

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.’

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.’

Words, NAHUM TATE
Music, ESTE’S PSALTER, 1592
Descant and Organ Part, DAVID WILLCOCKS

¶ The congregation sits.

EIGHTH LESSON

READER: PHYLLIS JONES

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

MATTHEW 2

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL *TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY*

TOMORROW shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain

In a manger laid and wrapp'd I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain

Music, TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL
Arranged, DAVID WILCOCKS

CAROL *CHRISTMAS NIGHT*

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild
Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed;
Seraphim in glory hover round his head.
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,
Bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:
Christ our Lord in human form come down to earth.
"Glory to God in highest heav'n" their joyful strain:
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' the glad refrain.

Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav'n above:
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

Words and Arranged, JOHN RUTTER
Melody, ARBEAU'S *ORCHÉSOGRAPHIE*, 16TH CENTURY

¶ All stand.

NINTH LESSON

READER: BILL KIRBY

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

JOHN 1

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 83 *O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*

¶ Sung by all, standing.

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 heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest:'

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

Translated, FREDERICK OAKLEY
Melody, JOHN FRANCIS WADE
Arranged, DAVID WILLCOCKS

¶ **All remain standing.**

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Reverend Diane Carroll The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Reverend Diane Carroll Let us pray.

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.

All **Amen.**

Reverend Diane Carroll

CHRIST, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you
the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

HYMN 87 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

HARK! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn King.*

Words, CHARLES WESLEY AND GEORGE WHITEFIELD
Music, FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
Descant, DAVID WILLCOCKS

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. BACH

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

NEIL HARMON

**¶ All remain standing during the organ voluntary while the Choir and Clergy recess.
Whether you leave at this point or prefer to sit until it is finished, please do not talk.**

¶ Thank you for joining us for this service this evening. Please don't forget to contribute to the collection as you leave the Church. If you would like to make a more considered or sustained financial contribution to help support the life of the Church, Reverend Diane would be delighted to hear from you.

THE PARTICIPANTS

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MS. CYNTHIA HU

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TENORS
MR. KENNY ANDERSON
MR. BRUCE JOHNSON

BASSES
DR. MAC LAMBERT
DR. ANDREW WEST (AND BASSOON)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Heathsville, VA



Our mission is to be a welcoming family,
united in Christian love, worship, and service.

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