

A Service of Lessons and Carols



St. Christopher's School

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

ABOUT THIS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a beloved tradition in the Anglican tradition, inviting us into a profound dialogue between the living Word of Scripture and the timeless beauty of hymns and carols. Through this sacred exchange, we hear the story of God's presence with us anew.

The first Festival of Lessons and Carols was held at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve in 1918, and it has since become a cherished observance in churches and schools worldwide.

As we gather in this holy season, we invite you to listen with fresh hearts to these ancient Words of life. May you experience a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas.

As a courtesy to those around you, **please take a moment to silence your cell phone.** We also ask that you refrain from taking photos or video during the service so that we may all fully participate in this sacred time together.

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude on '*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*'

setting: Catherine McMichael

Brendan Raymond Parrish Cosby '28
Benjamin Gentry Vaiksnoras '27, violin

CAROL

Ding Dong Merrily on High
Ding Dong! merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria! hosanna in excelsis!
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen.
An io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria! hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you, pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers.
May you beautifully, beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Music: 16th Century French Tune
Arranged by: Christi Cary Miller

Viale D'Acero

Lisa Overmyer, glockenspiel

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT

Matin Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Cantor: Benjamin Ernst Butterfield '25

Baritone: Isaac Jeremiah Lupica '25

First Boy: Jahmari Amir Kenney '30

Second Boy: Ricky Noreen Gray III '30

Saints Singers

I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say, Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say,
Hear, O thou Shepherd thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say, Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

(First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, early medieval Roman rite)

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Congregation will stand at the third verse and sing with the choir during the procession.

Edward McCoy Eakin IV '29, soloist

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 alone

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, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Sung by all, standing

We, like Mary, rest confounded
That a stable should display
Heaven's Word, the world's creator
Cradled there on Christmas Day.
Yet this child, our Lord and brother,
Brought us love for one another.

For he is our life-long pattern;
Daily, when on earth he grew,
He was tempted, scorned, rejected,
Tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
And he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child who seemed so helpless
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 round,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
Set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander
Music: *Irby*, Henry Gauntlett, arr. Mann/Wilcocks

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Please remain standing for the prayer.

Officiant

Beloved in Christ, be it this day 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 the Babe lying in a manger. 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 let us make this church glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and health over all the earth; for unity and goodwill within the Church he came to build. 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 and the hungry, the abused, the exploited and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved; the elderly and the little children; all 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 this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all, standing.

**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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Please be seated.

Genesis 3:1-15

Lector: Benjamin Pope Hackney '30

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

THE CAROL

Please remain seated.

O Come, O Come, the "I Am" that is with us
Break the bond of the captive people!
Who mourn in exile
Derived of the incarnation of the Father.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I Am" will be born for you.

O Come, gatherer of all nations,
Come to make all whole,
To save your servants from their separateness.

O Come thou light of life
To shine on us by your coming,
Dispel the clouds of night,
Drive away the shadows of death.

Saints Singers

Lisa Overmyer, percussion

Words: 18th-century Latin Hymn (9th-century Origin)

Music: 'Veni, veni, Emmanuel,' Michael John Trotta

THE SECOND LESSON

Please remain seated.

Isaiah 7:10-15

Lector: Kieran Mayank Patel '29

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

THE CAROL

Please be seated.

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
That animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
To bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Saints Singers

Words: Responsory for Christmas Day

Music: 'O magnum mysterium' Tomás Luis de Victoria

THE THIRD LESSON

Please remain seated.

Luke 1:26-38

Lector: Banks Covington Lambeth-Butler '28

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear a son of the Most High.

THE HYMN

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

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 the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain

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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn

THE FOURTH LESSON

Please be seated.

Luke 1:39-56

Lector: Roman Woolfolk Boyd '28

The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her joy.

THE CAROL

Please remain seated.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas:
Star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token;
Love be yours, and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Glee Club

Leslie Long, oboe

Words: Christina Rossetti

Music: Howard Helvey

THE FIFTH LESSON

Please remain seated.

Luke 2:1-7

Lector: Thomas Nash Millner '28

Jesus is born in Bethlehem.

THE HYMN

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 holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend on 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: *St. Louis*

THE SIXTH LESSON

Please be seated.

Luke 2:8-20

Lector: Thomas Rutherford Ferguson Jr. '25

Jesus is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

THE CAROL

Please remain seated.

Keep on following, keep on following, keep on following the star to Bethlehem
 You've got to listen, little children, these things I say are true.
 I heard it from the angels, this is what you all should do.
 Turn your eyes toward heaven, seek and you shall find good news is awaiting.
 Hope is shining in the sky!
 You've got to journey like the wise men who traveled from the east,
 and stop what you are doing, like the shepherds tending sheep.
 It doesn't matter where you live or who you are.
 Head what you are hearing, keep on following the star!

7th and 8th Grade Choir

August Henry Price '29 and Jassen De'Wayne Jordan Jr. '30, soloists

Words: Anonymous, 9th century
 Music: Traditional, arr. Noah Reese

THE HYMN

Sung by all, standing.

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,
 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.

Silent night, holy night,
 shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr
 Music: *Stille Nacht*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Please be seated.

John 1:1-14
Mason Lecky, Headmaster

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE CAROL

Please remain seated.

Joy to the world! The lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing!

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

Joy to the earth, the savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love!

Andrew Nicholas Brata '27, bass
Loretta McCray, violin
Nicholas George Meyers '25, guitar
Lisa Overmyer, hand drum

Words: Isaac Watts
Music: L. Mason/G Handel arr. D. Forrest

THE COLLECT

Please stand.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of thy faithful servant, ever Blessed Mary: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Please remain standing.

Officiant Almighty God, in this holy season of prayer, song, and joy, we give Thee thanks and praise for the great wonders Thou hast revealed unto us: for the shining star, the angel's song, and the infant's cry in the lowly manger. We bless Thee for thy Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold His glory, and are bathed in that radiant light.

Grant us Thy presence as we go forth to proclaim the story of Christmas; the incomprehensible made known, the poetry of heaven made truth, the helpless Babe who rends the world asunder. We kneel before Thee, as shepherds, innkeepers, and as your faithful servants. Raise us up, O Lord, that we may be greater than we are.

And we humbly ask Thy blessing upon us, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

All Amen.

THE HYMN

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;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord

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

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade

Music: *Adeste fideles*

Please remain standing in silence until the processional cross has left the church.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo' BWV 729
Johann Sebastian Bach

Saints Singers

Jamie Biley	Alice Kidd
Lane Burnett	Leopold Kobal
Ben Butterfield	Isaac Lupica
Grace Carington	Emily Mulé
Hugh Checkovich	Thomas Murcko
Virginia Dean	Frances Reynolds
Liam Dunn	James Segneri
Harper Guare	Bella Torres
Olivia Hopkins	Joaquín Torres
Anne Hubard	Baxter Trow
Harper Huffman	W. J. Valentine
Aaliyah Jafari-Lwanga	Tate Wilson
Elizabeth Kaufman	Harris Wolfe
Daniel Kehoe	Marlo Woodfin

7th and 8th Grade Choir

Miko Aboutanos	Ivan Johnson
Palmer Ayscue	Jassen Jordan
Dylan Bartlow	Jahmari Kenney
Levi Browder Jones	Parker Kuemmerle
David Brown	Timothy Lovette
Whilden Callahan	Dusty Malone
Matthew Caputo	Jimmy Parker
Elex Churchwell	Kieran Patel
Evan Clary	Talyn Patel
Lawson Clelland	Henry Peace
Connor Crowell	James Pickren
McCoy Eakin	August Price
Charlie Figg	Will Rash
Jackson Gardner	Christopher Rauchle
Lane Gathright	Warren Ross
Freddy Gatty	Walker Shaw
William Ginther	Camden Stanley
Ricky Gray	Will Thurmond
Bo Hackney	Charlie Vaughn
West Hackney	James Waechter
William Holdaway	Eli White
Eli Holloway	George Wolfe

Glee Club

Palmer Berry	Loch Macfarlane
Jamie Biley	Coleman Mayer
Carson Brown	Collin McDonald
Ben Butterfield	Winston Morris
Hayes Carithers	Thomas Murcko
Hugh Checkovich	Bryce Neely
Lance Clelland	Henry Rotter
Jax Davis	James Segneri
Gray Dion	Ben Smith
Liam Dunn	William Sterling
Powell Gilmore	William Suttan
Lukas Gordinier	Beckett Thorp
Charlie Gunn	Joaquín Torres
Claiborne Hall	Baxter Trow
Tal Horton	W. J. Valentine
Luke Hudson	Collin Weis
Aedan Imbert	Jack Wick
Daniel Kehoe	Tate Wilson
Leopold Kobal	Harris Wolfe
Jack Kuemmerle	August Wood
Isaac Lupica	

Viale D'Acero

Miko Aboutanos	Savannah Henry
Maya Anis-Gregory	Eli Holloway
Dylan Bartlow	Sydney Killeen
Amani Boye	Zoë McMullen
Abby Brata	Meadow Miller
Matthew Caputo	Riley Mulé
Edie Degnan	Tamia Pleasants
McCoy Eakin	August Price
Susannah Eakin	Christopher Rauchle
Charlie Figg	Warren Ross
Freddy Gatty	Charlotte Vaiksnoras
Hannah Harris	Charlie Vaughn
Reagan Harris	George Wolfe
Maggie Head	Becca Zwicker

6th Grade Descant Choir

Andrew Boulais
Bridger Clemons
Carson Greenberg
Chapin Haden
Jack Jones
Henry Kidd

Hunt Melton
Edward Ryan
Luca Testani
Henry Wood
Philip Wood

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

William Hayes Carithers '26, *Crucifer*
Maddox Alexander White '26 and Noah Ralph Daigneau '28, *Torchbearers*
Gregory K. Vick, *Organist, Director of Saints Singers and Glee Club*
Nicholas E. Brata, *Director of the 7th and 8th Grade Choir and Viale D'Acero*
Annabelle L. Mills, *Director of Saint Singers and Viale D'Acero*
Kerry F. Court, *Pianist and Director of the Descant Choir*
R. Lee Covington, *Pianist*
The Reverend Wade Reck, *Middle School Chaplain*
The Reverend Paul Evans '01, *Upper School Chaplain*



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Rt. Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, *XIV Bishop Diocesan*
The Rt. Reverend Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Reverend James Joseph Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

St. Christopher's School would like to thank St. Stephen's Church for generously providing the use of the church for this service.