



# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols of Christmastide

December 24, 2020  
7:00pm

## Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church

*Whoever you are,  
wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith,  
you are welcome here!*

This evening's *Festival Of Nine Lessons and Carols*, a bridge between Advent and Christmastide, follows the format of the service at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. It was first introduced there in 1918 and has been broadcast live on Christmas Eve by the BBC since 1928.

The service includes carols and readings from the Bible. As the service begins, the prayers of the people are sought for those in need at Christmastime as accounts of God's redemptive acts unfold in the lessons which follow. These nine lessons begin with the account of God's confrontation with evil (represented by the serpent in the narrative of the Garden of Eden), continue with the prophecies of the Messiah who will bruise the serpent's head, and conclude with the fulfillment of these prophecies as recorded in the Gospels. Each lesson is followed by a carol chosen to enhance its message.

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*Once in royal David's city*

Hymnal 102 v. 1,2,5,6

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.

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, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes that at poor last shall see him, through his  
Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the  
own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in  
help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
heav - en, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -  
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

## **The Bidding Prayer**

Beloved 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 shepherd and with the Magi 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 let us make this church dedicated to St. John glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us 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 within this nation under God's care and within our city of Chula Vista. And 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; and all who know not the loving kindness of God. 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 one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom 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:

**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 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.**

*Rector* 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

## *Genesis 3: 8-15*

Jim McDevitt

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

## Carol

## *Of the Father's love begotten*

Hymnal 82 v. 1-3

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

## The Second Lesson

*Genesis 22:15-18*

Pamela Brittain

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

## Carol

*Angels, from the realms of glory*

Hymnal 93 v. 1-3

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;

*Refrain*

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: come and wor - ship,  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: na - tal star:  
ye have seen his

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## The Third Lesson

*Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7*

Jeff Bates

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Carol**                    *And His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful*

**The Fourth Lesson**                    *Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9*

Karen Duignan

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

**Carol***Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Hymnal 81 v. 1-3

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

**The Fifth Lesson***Luke 1: 26–35; 38*

Alejandra Valdez-Beer

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

"Greetings, favored one! The LORD is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,  
and the LORD God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the LORD; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol***The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

Hymnal 265 v. 1-4

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

### **The Sixth Lesson**

*Luke 2: 1; 3-7*

David Dennehy

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Carol

## Away in a manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 \*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

## The Seventh Lesson

## Luke 2: 8-16

Rev. Cathey Dowdle

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the LORD stood before them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Carol***Angels we have heard on high*

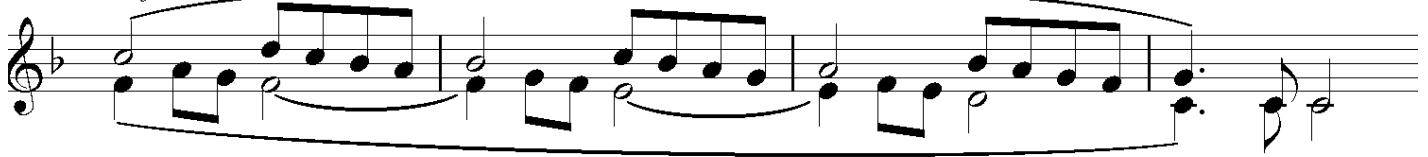
Hymnal 96 v. 1-3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

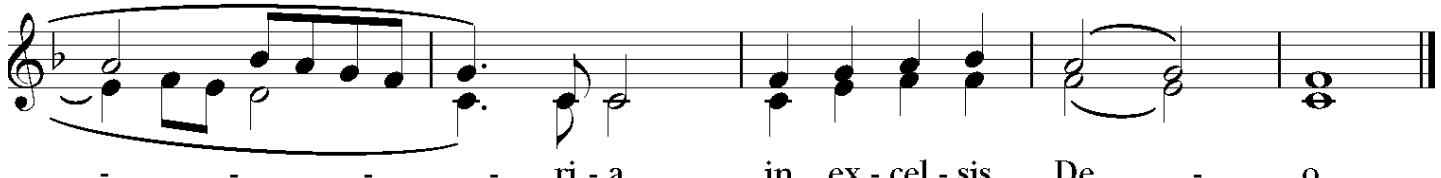
*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**The Eighth Lesson***Matthew 2: 1-12*

Judy Butcher

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol**                    *O holy night*

**The Ninth Lesson**

*John 1: 1-14*

Rev. Roger Haenke

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Carol

*O come, all ye faithful*

Hymnal 83 v. 1-3

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

1 come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 2 lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

1 come, and behold him, born the King of angels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Father;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry 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.

## The Christmas Collect

Rector The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Rector Let us pray

O God, who makes 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 lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## Spiritual Communion

Rev. Cathey Dowdle

*Spiritual Communion is an ancient practice of the church. As we celebrate the Word made flesh, the birth of Jesus Christ, we welcome his coming into our lives. It is our desire to receive Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, so even though we may not receive the presence of Christ physically, we may receive Christ spiritually. The Church offers us a prayer for Spiritual communion. Let us pray together:*

**Blessed Jesus, I believe that we are fed with the spiritual food of your Body and Blood. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally today, I now desire to receive you into my soul. Unite my heart with those of my community gathered to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.**

### Carol

### *Silent Night*

Hymnal 111 v. 1-3

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
  
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
  
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
  
peace. Sleep in heavenly Christ, the Savior, is Je-sus, Lord, at thy  
born! birth.

## The Blessing

May he who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Carol

Hark the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87 v.1-3

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - ell!  
hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

## Postlude



## *Christmas Flower Dedications*

*We remember before God all those who rejoice with us, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.*

*In loving memory of Fr. Jack Tolley*  
given by Sarah Tolley and the family.

*In memory of Dr. Ed Wilson*  
given by Sonja Reid.

*In memory of their parents*  
given by Bill and Diane Gustafson.

*In thanksgiving for children and grandchildren*  
given by Wilma Hunter.

*In memory of our mothers Miriam Andrews and Isabell Cowen  
and my sister Sharon (Sherry) Burke*  
sister of Denny Andrews and sister-in-law of Dawn Andrews.

*In memory of Mark Higginbotham and in thanksgiving for my family and  
friends, including the St. John's family*  
given by Tom Brzeczek.

*In honor and remembrance of my parents Doris Imogene Nottage  
and Colonel Paul Edward Nottage*  
given by Janie Burchartz.

*In memory of and in thanksgiving for all our loved ones*  
given by David and Linda Dennehy.

*In memory of our parents Reuben and Hermina Van Dam  
and Silas (Sandy) Morris, and my brother Bruce Van Dam  
In honor of my mother Priscilla (Morris) Szymanski*  
given by Michael and Marcia Morris.

*In memory of Rob McKay*  
given by Judy McKay.

*In memory of Joseph and Josephine Zajkowski and Darlene Stanard*  
given by Barbara Duncan and Cookie Tichonchuk

*In memory of Sofia Cristina de la Lama*  
from her family



## Liturgical Ministers

<b>Presider</b>	Rev. Roger Haenke
<b>Acolytes</b>	Scott Bricknell, Jeff Bates, Tom Brzeczek
<b>Readers</b>	Jim McDevitt, Pamela Brittain, Jeff Bates, Karen Duignan, Alejandra Valdez-Beer, David Dennehy, Rev. Cathey Dowdle, Judy Butcher
<b>Vocalists</b>	Jane Ferguson, Pamela Brittan, Alice Burnham, Luke Jacobs, Jeff Bates, Tom Brzeczek
<b>Spiritual Communion</b>	Rev. Cathey Dowdle
<b>Organist</b>	Cheryl Seppala
<b>Video / Livestream</b>	Cliff Berkowitz

## St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community.

## St. John's Prayer Lists

*Today and every day include some time for prayer, for yourself, for your church family, and for those in need.*

### For Our Military

Matt Jensen, Drew Shorkey, Cody Crossland, Cameron Ronie, Chariti Paden, Mark Stanfield, Sean Robinson, Jonathan Martinez, TK Nguyen, Christopher Lindshield, Timothy Lindshield, Jeremy Colton, David Sanchez, Jonathan Baldera, Nick Wyatt, Jamal Warner, Matt Hernandez, Daniel Getreu, Jocelyn Hernandez, Devon Strunk, Taylor Harrold, Jorge Zuazua, Katherine Milam, Sebastian Morales, Richie Lebron and Roberto Johnson.

## For Strength in Time of Need

Scott Hunter, Betty Robertson, Anne Marie Mackay, Bernie Duignan, Christy Gollihur, Judith Malear, Gloria Attaway, Dyan Wyatt, Marla Wyatt, the Milam family, Steve Magill, Dawn Walker and Gary & Shirley McCarren.

For the repose of the soul of Jeff Walker.  
May light perpetual shine on him.

*(Names are kept on the Prayers List for 4 weeks and should be submitted by Wednesday.  
If you wish to add a name, please email Maria Love at: [maria@saint-johns.org](mailto:maria@saint-johns.org).)*

## We Are Available in Your Time of Need

If you have a pastoral emergency when the parish offices are closed, please call Rev. Roger at 619-301-0724 or email [revroger@saint-johns.org](mailto:revroger@saint-johns.org)

St. John's Clergy	St. John's Vestry
The Rev. Roger Haenke, <i>Rector</i>	David Dennehy, <i>Senior Warden</i> (619) 840-9994 <a href="mailto:masterfrog@att.net">masterfrog@att.net</a>
The Rev. Cathey Dowdle	Terry Farrelly, <i>Treasurer</i> Diane Gustafson, <i>Clerk</i> Pamela Brittain Tom Brzeczek Ray Contreras Muriel Kulikowski Jim McDevitt Judy McKay Lynn Young

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