

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS  
FOR CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2025  
5 O'CLOCK





## **WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!**

We are delighted to welcome our parishioners, neighbors and all visitors, familiar and new, to our annual service of Nine Lessons & Carols. To those visiting, we hope you return again, and to all we wish a blessed season of Advent and Christmastide.

**Offering plates are positioned in the back of the church for your consideration of supporting the *Margaret Orr Memorial Choral Scholarship*.**

This scholarship was established in 2012 by the family and friends of long-time chorister Margaret Orr. The scholarship exists to benefit the choristers involved in Music at The Redeemer whose financial needs have a direct bearing on their involvement with our musical outreach and other learning activities. Since its inception, we have disbursed over \$35,000.

**You may also use the QR code below to make your donation by PayPal.  
Please indicate your email address in the transaction.**



If you would like more information on our music program and our church, please visit [www.TheRedeemer.org](http://www.TheRedeemer.org)

**Following the service, we invite everyone to a reception  
in Burns Hall in the Parish House.**

### **SERVING THE PARISH**

Marshall Zafiriou, Nicholas Zafiriou *Vergers*  
Bob Mikrut, *Head Verger*  
Catherine Zafiriou, *Crucifer*

PRELUDE

Music by Ireland, Purvis, Brahms, & Elmore

Daniel Colaner, organist

WELCOME

The Reverend Peter T. Vanderveen, *Rector*

***Please stand to sing:***

**HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City

*Irby*

*Stanzas 1 & 2 sung by the Choir, the Congregation joining at Stanza 3.*

1. Once in royal David's city  
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
 Where a mother laid her baby  
 In a manger for a bed:  
 Mary was that mother mild,  
 Jesus Christ her little child.

2. 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,  
 Live on earth our Savior holy.



3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey, love and  
 4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like us he grew, he was  
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re - deem - ing love, for that  
 6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by, we shall



watch the low - ly maid - en, in whose gen - tle arms he lay: Christ - ian  
 lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew: and he  
 child so dear and gen - tle, is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: and he  
 see him but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high, where like



child - ren all must be \_\_\_\_\_ mild, o - be - dient good as he,  
 feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
 leads his child - ren on \_\_\_\_\_ to the place where he is gone.  
 stars his child - ren crowned, all in white shall wait a - round.

**\*BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, be it this evening 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 shall come to pass.

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 the whole world: for peace and good will over all the earth, for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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 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 one 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:

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

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.**

*Please sit*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3

The Rev. Jo Ann B. Jones

CAROL

The Truth Sent from Above

Ralph Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love:  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create,  
The next thing which to you I'll tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice  
To place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain, from evil free,  
Except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin.  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run,  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

Out of your sleep arise and wake,  
 For God mankind now hath ytake.  
 All of a maid without any make:  
 Of all women she beareth the bell.

And through a maide fair and wise,  
 Now man is made of full great price:  
 Now angels knelen to man's service,  
 And at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun:  
 Now man in heav'n on high shall won:  
 Blessed be God this game is begun  
 And his mother the Empress of hell.

That ever was thrall now is he free:  
 That ever was small now great is she:  
 Now shall God deem be thee and me  
 Unto this bliss if we do well.

Now man he may to heaven wend:  
 Now heav'n and earth to him they bend.  
 He that was foe now is our friend.  
 This is no nay that I you tell.

Now blessed Brother grant us grace,  
 At doomes day to see the face,  
 And in thy court to have a place,  
 That we may there sing thee nowell.

***Please stand to sing:***

***Please sit.***

CAROL

Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

Ola Gjeilo

Hark, a herald voice is calling;  
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day."

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines up on the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiv'n.

So when next He comes with glory,  
And earth's final hour draws near,  
May He then as our defender,  
On the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honor, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the coeternal Spirit,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11

Wilson Jeffreys

CAROL

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells

A spotless Rose is blowing  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
Amid the cold, cold winter  
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For through our God's great love and might  
The blessed babe she bare us  
In a cold, cold winter's night.

***Remain seated to sing:*****HYMN 265**

The Angel Gabriel

*Gabriel's Message**Please remain seated. Stanza 3 sung by The Cherub Choir and Choristers alone.*

## CAROL

Christ is Born

Michael Bedford  
*Sung by the Cherub Choir*

Christ is born! Christ is born!  
Noel! Sing noel!

Lying in a manger small,  
Nestled in a cattle stall,  
Mary, Joseph standing near,  
Nothing, nothing shall he fear.

Angels sing of Jesus' birth,  
Bringing news to all the earth;  
Shepherds worship and adore,  
Praise his name forevermore.

## CAROL

Ave Maria

Simon Lindley  
*Sung by the Choristers*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum;  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

CAROL

O Magnum Mysterium

Craig Phillips

*O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
iacentem in praeseptio!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Iesum Christum.  
Alleluia!*

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

SEVENTH LESSON

St. Luke 2

Stanley Chojnacki

CAROL

While Their Flocks the Shepherds Tended

Michael Praetorius  
*Sung by the Camerata*

While their flocks the shepherds tended,  
Heavenly Hosts to earth descended,  
Singing, with all voices blended,  
“Fear not, Christ is born today.”

Eastern Seers rich gifts had wrought Him,  
Gold, frankincense, myrrh, they brought Him,  
Guided by a Star they sought Him,  
Prince of Life and Victory.

On that Child with Mary gazing,  
Join ye Christians all in raising,  
Songs to Him whom Heaven is praising,  
God incarnate, come to us.

From this day’s first dawn to even,  
Praise to Christ our King be given,  
By all Earth, and all in Heaven,  
In our sweetest, loftiest strain.

***Please stand to sing:***

**HYMN 105**

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*God Rest You Merry*

***Please sit.***

EIGHTH LESSON

St. Matthew 2

Jenny Kirkpatrick

CAROL

Coventry Carol

traditional  
arr. Martin Shaw  
*Sung by the Choristers & Camerata*

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,  
by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do  
for to preserve this day this poor youngling,  
for whom we do sing by by, lully lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging,  
charged he hath this day his men of might,  
in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!  
and ever morn and day, for thy parting  
neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

NINTH LESSON

St. John 1

The Rev. Peter T. Vanderveen

CAROL

Sir Christèmas

William Mathias

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

*Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,*  
Tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young,  
Which causeth you to sing:  
Nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid,  
Born of a pure maid;  
In an ox-stall he is laid,  
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:  
Nowell, nowell.

*Buvez bien, buvez bien  
Par toute la compagnie.*

Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully  
Nowell, nowell!

***Please stand to sing:***

**HYMN**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

**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 host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

*Refrain:*

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**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.***

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n 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***

COLLECT AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

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. **Amen.**

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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Please remain standing until the choirs have processed out.***

POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach



**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER MUSIC STAFF**

Mr. Andrew Senn, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Mr. Daniel Colaner, *Michael Stairs Organ Scholar*  
Mr. Robert Flora, *Director of the Cherub Choir*  
Ms. Jennifer Patten, *Administrative Assistant*  
Dr. Connie Stuckert & Mr. Wilson Jeffreys, *Choir Librarians*

**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER CLERGY**

The Rev. Peter T. Vanderveen, *Rector*  
The Rev. Jo Ann B. Jones, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Jeremy O'Neill, *Associate Rector*

## THE REDEEMER CHOIR

Trish Bennett  
Sarah Carter  
William Scott Carter\*  
Catherine Caruthers  
Radcliffe Edmonds  
Susannah Edmonds  
Robert Flora\*\*\*  
Ken Garner\*\*\*  
Fran Healy  
Daniel Helming  
Wilson Jeffreys\*\*\*  
Sheryl Johnson  
Jim Jordan\*\*\*  
Hope Knight\*\*\*

Edward Landin Senn\*  
Ananda Leahy  
Melanie LeBoeuf  
Raffaella LoCastro\*\*\*  
Laurie MacKenzie\*\*\*  
Arianna MacKenzie-  
LoCastro  
Charlotte MacLean  
Brenton Mattox\*\*\*  
Augie Merritt\*  
Fran Merritt\*\*\*  
Meredith Noll  
Clare Northington\*  
Rebecca Northington  
Jennifer Patten

Jessie Rae  
Jason Scoggin  
Jenni Scoggin  
Anna Shavin  
Evie Silio\*  
Theo Silio\*  
Emily Spadaro\*  
Tad Sperry  
Kate Stephan  
Bill Susskind  
Leslie Susskind  
Peter Vanderveen  
Kelsey Watts\*\*\*  
Lindsey Wilkinson  
David Woods

\*\*\* *Staff Singer* \* *Camerata*

## CHORISTERS

Daniel Canter  
Stanley Chojnacki  
Vivian Galiuk  
Isaac Martinson  
Anna Rae  
Jake Reese  
Elsa Reese

Isabel Reyfman  
Gabe Scoggin  
Arabella Senn  
Sophia Scott  
Ashley Trucksess  
Henry Winfield  
June Winfield

## CHERUBS

Sally Ciattoni  
Daniel Humphreys  
Sara Humphreys  
Jack Krotick  
Asher Martinson

Joey Nicolosi  
Julian Nicolosi  
Andrew Pozos  
Simon Reyfman



# Christmas at The Redeemer

Christmas Eve

4pm Pageant

6pm Service of Light and Evening Prayer

10pm Festival Eucharist

Music begins at 9:30pm

Christmas Day

10am Holy Eucharist



*Christmas Eve 4pm Pageant and 10pm service will be livestreamed.*

**PATRONS OF MUSIC AT THE REDEEMER**  
**2025-2026**  
*(as of 12/12/25)*

**Sustainer**  
***(\$2,000 and above)***

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Donations to support Music at The Redeemer are always gratefully appreciated. They provide essential core support for our program, which benefits not only the parish but the surrounding community, and plays a key role in making The Redeemer an anchor institution. Donations may be made using the QR code below, and selecting Music Series Donation; or by check.

