



St. Francis
Episcopal Church

JANUARY 1, 2023

THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
FESTIVAL OF SIX LESSONS AND CAROLS
10:00 AM



Welcome to St. Francis Episcopal Church. We are glad to have you with us today as we worship and invite you to participate throughout the service. May God bless you this and every day.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Our Christmas service of Lessons and Carols is based on a similar service celebrated at King's College, Cambridge. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

The order of service was adapted from an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, who would later become Archbishop of Canterbury, for use at a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in 1880 that took place in a temporary wooden shed serving as the cathedral in Truro, Cornwall. The first Lessons and Carols service at King's College was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was conceived by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the College, whose experience as an army chaplain had led him to believe that more imaginative worship was needed by the Church of England. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. A broadcast will be available via American Public Media.

The format of the service has not changed substantially from the one in use at King's College to this day. The order of the lessons was revised in 1919, and since that time the service has always begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City." As we celebrate this Festival, we will preserve much of the language used in the King's College service. We hope that this service is one of splendor, awe, and profound meaning. Christmas blessings to all!

PRELUDE

Benita McFarland, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: *Once in royal David's city*

Hymnal 102

vs. 1-2, 4, 6 / v.1 Solo: William Gaunt

1 Once in royal David's city
 2 He came down to earth from
 4 For he is our life - long
 6 Not in that poor low - ly

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

A musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The soprano part (top line) consists of a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass part (bottom line) consists of a harmonic bass line. The piano part (middle line) provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. The lyrics are integrated into the melody, with some words appearing on the piano line.

1 was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
6 vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Sts. 1–2, 4–6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818–1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929) Copyright: Words: St.3 © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: Copyright © 1957, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

Please remain standing.

CHRISTMAS BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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 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, 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 within the Church he came to build. 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, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 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.

Today Christ is born: today the Saviour hath appeared: today on earth the choirs of angels sing:

Today Archangels together rejoice: today the righteous rejoice together saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-19

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

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.”

And unto Adam he said, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Text: Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow; snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God
Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay,
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What shall I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah:

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 for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand, sung by all.

HYMN: *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Hymnal 67

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

Please be seated.

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A child is born with us to dwell, scripture well to us doth tell: *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’ (Name him Emmanuel)

‘This is the stone cut of the hill’, thus saith the prophet Daniel, ‘Born of a maid in deed and will, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’

A child is born with us to dwell, scripture well to us doth tell: *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*

Thus said the prophet Ysay Long time before, or it befell: ‘A maid shall bear a child Truly, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’

‘He is our Lord’, saith Jeremy, ‘This child now born with us to dwell, and none like him is far nor near, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’

‘The Son of God,’ Abacuc said, ‘By whom all thing was made full well, in an ox stall Was poorly laid, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’

‘All kings to him do pray,’ Thus saith David, as I tell, ‘Him all peoples shall obey, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*’

Now let us pray, both all and some, To this angel of all counsel, To heavenly bliss that We may come, *Nomen Eius Emmanuel.*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-12

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

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 Savior, 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

On Christmas night, all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth.
Then why on earth should we be 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 all the earth may sing, all for to see the newborn King.
All our of darkness, we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God!” we sing again, now and for evermore. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea 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 Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” Then Herod, when he had privately 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 by another way.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Out of the east came magi to worship in Bethlehem,
to adore the Lord, our God;
and they opened the gifts they had brought,
precious gifts as offerings for the Christ Child:
gold to laud the mighty ruler, frankincense for the true God,
myrrh for the tomb of the Savior, Alleluia

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-18

A reading from the Gospel of John:

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 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand, sung by all.

HYMN: *O come, all ye faithful* vs. 1-3, 6

Hymnal 83

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son - of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

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

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

Benita McFarland, organ

Please stand.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: 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 thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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 Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing. Sung by all.

CLOSING HYMN: Hark! The herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

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 - el!
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!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

VOLUNTARY:

Benita McFarland, organ

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers in the Church are given to the glory of God and in thankfulness for our many blessings, and in celebration of our 52nd wedding anniversary, by Jim and Jane Woody.

THE EPIPHANY PROJECT

January 8th

As we celebrate the Magi coming to offer Christ gifts during the season of Epiphany, we will be offering gifts as part of our Epiphany Project. Joyner Elementary School is just around the corner from St. Francis and the teachers have many needs. Please bring your gifts from the list below on January 8th where they will be blessed and shared with Joyner Elementary. If you are unable to attend on January 8th donations can be dropped off at the church the week before.

Items needed:

Glue sticks	Velcro dots
Pre-sharpened pencils	Headphones
Packing tape	Science fair display boards
Two pocket folders	Felt tip pens
Tissue	White and colored card stock
Pencil erasers	Individual erasers
Markers	Colored Pencils
Crayons	Dry-erase markers - all colors
Dry-erase markers - both fine point and regular black	



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

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THE VESTRY

**Senior Warden: Kris Cooke, Junior Warden: Claudia Clarke,
Treasurer: Rick Saunders**

Kitty Baker, Jim Cox, Angela Greiner, Kay Nicolls, George Patterson, Lee Schrader, Sandra Shields, Mike Sigmon, and Bill Sutton.

Vestry may be contacted at: vestry@stfrancisgreensboro.org