



**Welcome to the Festival
of Christmas Lessons & Carols!
Sunday, December 26, 2021**

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Our service comes from the great tradition of the “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” first celebrated on Christmas Eve 1880 by Bishop Edward W. Benson of Truro Cathedral. Variations have been crafted for other occasions, but it is known primarily as a Christmas Eve service. We will use six of the traditional nine lessons interspersed with Carols and Choral pieces that tell the story of salvation from the Fall to Christ’s Nativity. Our thanks to E.J. Cochran for planning the special music of this service.

“The Star Carol” by Alfred Burt

Susan Hollinger, Soloist

Entrance Hymn “Once in royal David’s city”

Hymnal 102 (vs. 1,3,4)

Celebrant: The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ at Church of Our Redeemer and all those who visit with us this holy night, let it be our joy this Christmas to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see the babe lying in a manger. But first, because they are so precious in the Lord’s eyes, let us remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; and especially those who are afflicted with Covid and those who have died from it. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude of saints which nobody can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. Let us humbly offer these prayers and praises to the throne of heaven as we recall the great stories of the Savior’s birth and the promise of eternal life with him and those we love. And now to make a right beginning, let us pray together the words of the Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas:

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS 1

Celebrant and People: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” by J.S. Bach

Victor Olmsted, Violinist

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8–15; 17–19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent’s head.

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

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." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "In the bleak midwinter"

Hymnal 112 (vs. 1-2)

Second Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

Hymnal 66

Third Lesson: Gospel of Luke 1:26–35; 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

Hymnal 265 (vs. 1-2)

Fourth Lesson: Gospel of Luke 2:1-16

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

"Ave Maria" by Franz Schubert

Victor Olmsted, Violinist

Fifth Lesson: Gospel of Luke 2:21-32

Jesus receives his name and is presented in the temple.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord....Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn “Angels, from the realms of glory”

Hymnal 93 (vs. 1)

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: And now in the words that our Lord taught us, let us pray together:

Celebrant and People: 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.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts and be thankful.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: May the humility of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wisemen, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always.

Closing Hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing"

Hymnal 87

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of the newborn Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at msflip925@aol.com. You may also contact the office by email redeemeraldie@gmail.com or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email l.packard@verizon.net or phone (703) 425-8315.

“For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and
Those Who Care for Them
Tisha Austin
Patrick Farragher
Althea Prins
Fred & John Warren
Stella Waltemeire
The Hollinger Family
Bob Stewart

TJ Hill
Russell & Lula
Candi & Taylor
Gwenivere Black
Evan Hansen
Liam Ferguson
The Pisciotta Family
Church of Our Redeemer
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

Serving Our Country
Amity Hess
All First Responders
All Front Line Workers
All Hospital and Emergency Room Workers

Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*