

Worldwide Bethlehem Lessons and Carols Community Event

"For the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among nations; for unity within the Church; for the welfare and prosperity of the people of Palestine and the people of the United States; and for all who hear the call of God and all who seek truth."

Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, Washington National Cathedral.

This year's Advent Lessons and Carols service marks the 20th anniversary of initial collaborative efforts of Rev. Canon Peterson, and Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem.

As part of its covenant relationship with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury has hosted a live community viewing of this Advent service for over a decade. The Episcopal Cathedral of Philadelphia and Christmas Lutheran Church will co-celebrate this year's service. Communities and individuals worldwide will also virtually participate via the Episcopal Cathedral's YouTube channel. Elaine Gerst has attended a number of these advent services at St. John's. She shared that "Singing and praying in different languages with people living all over the world is wonderful. I feel like it's a glimpse of heaven."

While the current cease fire and hostage release are answers to fervent prayer, mercy and justice are essential for true peace. Coming together with other people of faith this advent season is powerful. Katherine Jones shared she was struck by the difference in settings between the beautiful Episcopal Cathedral traditionally adorned for Advent and the simpler Christmas Church depiction of the Christ child in the rubble. Both are true, God sees us all as one faith community.

On Saturday December 13th (light refreshments, 9:30 am; worship 10- 11), St. John's will again host a community event of the Bethlehem Lessons and Carols livestream service between Christmas Church and the Episcopal Cathedral of Philadelphia. During these troubling times, we will be praying for peace and justice as we worship with Christian communities all over the world. Please join us at St. John's Faith Center. All are welcome, consider inviting others. .

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about St. John's Bethlehem Ministries, feel free to contact Michael Connor (mjconnor1982@gmail.com cell/text (734) 255 7230).