

Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 17, 2023, 4 pm



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude

“Noel” by L-C Daquin

please stand as you are able

Opening Carol, #102

Once in Royal David’s City (v. 1- solo)

The Hymnal 1982

Welcome and Opening Words

Presider

Little One, born this day:

People

Savior, Redeemer, Beloved of God.

Presider

Let us pray. Blessed Savior,

People

in love you came to us as a child: Enlighten our hearts, that we may more deeply understand the richness of this gift and practice more faithfully your call to give ourselves in love. Amen.

A Bidding Prayer

Presider

People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion until the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for God’s Church here and away.

a time of silence.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in Jesus’ name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not yet know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

a time of silence.

Finally, let us remember before God Jesus’ pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

a time of silence.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ has taught us, saying:

People

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those**

who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Almighty God bless us with unending grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Sovereign of the Angels bring us all.

People **Amen.**

the congregation may be seated

“Blessing the Story” by Jan Richardson

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

You might think
this blessing lives
in the story
that you can see,
that it has curled up
in a comfortable spot
on the surface
of the telling.

But this blessing lives
in the story beneath
the story.
It lives in the story
inside the story.
In the spaces
between.
In the edges,
the margins,

the mysterious gaps,
the enticing and
fertile emptiness.

This blessing
makes its home
within the layers.
This blessing is
doorway and portal,
passage and path.
It is more ancient
than imagining
and makes itself
ever new.

This blessing
is where the story
begins.

Lessons and Carols

After each lesson is read, the lector will conclude "The word of the Lord" to which the People respond: "Thanks be to God." The congregation will stand and sing for each Carol but may remain seated for the readings and anthems.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-19

Mary Curlew

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife 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." God 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."

To the woman God said,
"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

And to the man God 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."

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

The Crown of Roses

by Peter I. Tchaikovsky

*When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein He cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.*

*Now once, as summer time drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.*

*"Do you bind roses in your hair?"
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.
The Boy said humbly: "Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away."*

*Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on His forehead fair and young,
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.*

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Juliette Ciarimboli

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol, #54

Saviour of the nations come

The Hymnal 1982

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Phil Chin

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but 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.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

A great and mighty wonder (v 1,2,3)
(see next page)

A Great and Mighty Wonder

CHRISTMAS

Words: Germanus of Constantinople (634-734). Translated by John Mason Neale, 1862.
 Music: 'Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen (Rhythmic)' German from Köln, 1599. Setting: Michael Praetorius, 1609.
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$\text{♩} = 100$

1. A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure:
 2. The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high.
 3. While thus they sing your Monarch, those bright angelic bands,
 4. Since all He comes to ransom, by all be He adored,
 5. And idol forms shall perish, and error shall decay,

The virgin bears the Infant with virgin honor pure!
 And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.
 Rejoice, ye vales and mountains, ye oceans, clap your hands.
 The Infant born in Bethl'em, the Savior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall wield His scepter, our Lord and God for aye.

Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be glo - ry And peace on earth to men!"

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Chrystena Hahn

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.
 People Thanks be to God.

Anthem

O Queen of Heaven

by T. Rogers

*Regina Coeli, Regina coeli laetare.
O Queen of heaven that sittest in see,
O comfort of all captivity,
Right causeth all to sing to thee,
Regina Coeli, Regina coeli laetare.
O blessed branch of humility,
O causer of all felicity,
With joy and gladness sing we to thee,
Regina Coeli, Regina coeli laetare.
Benign Lady, blessed may thou be,
That barest God in virginity,
Therefore sing all, sing all to thee,
Regina Coeli, Regina coeli laetare.*

The Fifth Lesson: Micah 5:2

John Perkins

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Poem: The Savior must have been a docile Gentleman by Emily Dickinson

John Perkins

The Savior must have been
A docile Gentleman—
To come so far so cold a Day
For little Fellowmen—

The Road to Bethlehem
Since He and I were Boys
Was leveled, but for that 'twould be
A rugged Billion Miles—

Carol, #78

O little town of Bethlehem

The Hymnal 1982

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7

Chrystena Hahn

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Lo! Born is Our Emmanuel* *by Michael Praetorius*
*Lo! Born is our Emmanuel, Christ the Lord,
As foretold by Gabriel, Christ the Lord.
Christ the Lord, the Saviour of mankind, the Saviour of mankind.
This noble Child doth lay his head, Christ the Lord,
In a lowly manger bed, Christ then Lord.
Christ the Lord, the Saviour of mankind, the Saviour of mankind.
A light doth rise this blessed morn, Christ the Lord,
Of the Virgin Mary born, Christ the Lord.
Christ the Lord, the Saviour of mankind, the Saviour of mankind.*

Carol, #115 What child is this? *The Hymnal 1982*

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 *The Zimmerman Family*

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Carol, #94 While Shepherds watched their flocks by night *The Hymnal 1982*

Anthem *Cradle Song* *by John Rutter*
*In Bethlehem, all in a stable, lies a newborn infant mild.
By his side a virgin mother watches o'er the holy child.
Jesus, lying in the manger, comes to us on earth a stranger:
Lulla, Lullaby; Angels round you watch will keep.*

*Saint Joseph stands beside the cradle, filled with wonder, awe and love.
See, the infant King lies sleeping, sent from God in heaven above.
Ox and ass before him kneeling, Mary's love his sorrows healing:
Lulla, Lullaby; Angels round you watch will keep.*

*Hosanna in the highest heaven; peace, good will to men on earth.
Seraphim on high in chorus greet the Saviour's joyful birth.
Mary's voice, in descant blending, joins the heavenly song unending:
Lulla, Lullaby; Angels round you watch will keep.*

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Mary Curlew

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol, #124

What star is this with beams so bright

The Hymnal 1982

Anthem

O Nata Lux

by Morten Lauridsen

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.*

*Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

*(English translation)
O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.*

please stand as you are able

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol, #83

O come all ye faithful (vs. 1,2,3,6 only)

The Hymnal 1982

Closing Prayer

Presider Wonderful Counselor,
whose glory is beyond our understanding
and whose love is beyond measure:

People **Let us know your presence now.**

Deacon Mighty God,
whose power girds creation,
whose hands cradle the hills, yet whose mercy is boundless:

People **Let us know your presence now.**

Presider Prince of Peace,
whose righteousness is like the strong mountains
and whose justice is as the great deep:

People **Let us know your presence now.**

Deacon Emmanuel,
whose property it is always to have mercy,
and whose arm is long to save,
hold all those we love in your unbounded love.

People **Make us your healing presence in the world.**

Presider Loving Word of God, you have shown us the fullness of your glory in taking human
flesh: Fill us, in our bodily life, with your grace and truth, that our pleasure may be
boundless and our integrity complete.

People **Amen.**

Closing Carol, #87

Hark the herald angels sing

The Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Deacon

Go! Tell it on the mountain!

People

That Jesus Christ is born. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Noel” by C-B Balbastre

RESOURCES

Opening Words & Closing Prayer: from *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*. Church Publishing, Inc. 2014

Bidding Prayer: *The Book of Occasional Services* 2018

“Blessing the Story” by Jan Richardson, © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com.

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“The Little Town” Clinton Scollard

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presider: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music: Dr. Christina Edelen and the St. Bart's Choir

Readers: Phil Chin, Juliette Ciarimboli, Mary Curlew, Chrystena Hahn

John Perkins, The Zimmerman Family

Ushers: Pal Covie, Dennis Fitzgibbons

Altar Guild: Jan Burson

Advent Wreath: The Hodsdons

A/V: Joe Michaud



A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME

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The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Priest-in-Charge Email:

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Deacon:

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

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