



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020 5:30 PM

The Greeting

Hymn 102, stanzas 1-2 & 5-6, "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

*music: Irby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876);
harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)
text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.*

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2. He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

The Bidding Prayer

Dear 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 against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his 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 know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his 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.

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

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.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:1-15
read by Sandra Ireland

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Carol, "JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE"

music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)
text: anonymous

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

The prophet fortells the coming of the Savior.

Carol, "UNTO US IS BORN A SON"

*music: Tune from Piaie Cantiones, 1582, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
text: Latin carol, 15th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.*

Unto us is born a Son.
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be cradled in the manger.

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in chora,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

THIRD LESSON

MARK 1:2-8
read by Simon Wadsworth

St. John the Forerunner prepares the way of the Lord.

Hymn 65, "PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION"

*music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697;
harm. Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.
text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. Composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)*



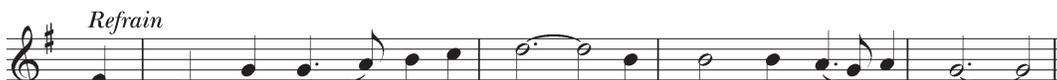
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

**The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary
that she will bear the Son of the Most High.**

Carol, “THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME”

*music: Gabriel’s Message, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)
text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said,
‘my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.’
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—
‘Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!

The Shepherds go to the manger.

Carol, “AWAY IN A MANGER”

*music: Traditional Normandy tune, arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)
text: Traditional Carol*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Carol, "THREE GREAT KINGS"

*music: 13th Century Traditional French Carol, arr. March Schweizer (1956-2019)
text: Traditional French Carol*

Three great Kings I met at early morn,
With all their retinue were slowly marching;
Three great Kings I met at early morn,
Were on their way to meet the newly-born.

And valiant warriors to guard the royal treasure,
With gifts of gold brought from far away,
Their shields all shining in their bright array.

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol, "OF THE FATHER'S HEART BEGOTTEN"

*music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th cent; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582;
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
text: Prudentius, b. 348; tr. R.F.D.*

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
refrain

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
refrain

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
refrain

The Final Prayers and Blessing

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly festival of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world; grant that we, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, may see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Welcome Jesus, our humble gentle Savior, welcome to Bethlehem, where we have loved and fought and longed for the peace the world can never give. We ask your peace, your love, your gentleness, and the courage to live that way. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 96, stanzas 1 & 3-4, "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

music: *Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)*

text: *French carol; tr. Joames Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.*

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, *Rector*

The Rev. Laura F. Gettys, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Anne S. Carriere, *Priest Associate*

Members of the Grace-St. Luke's Choir

Canterbury Choir

Dr. Patrick A. Scott, *Director of Music & Organist*

Debbie Smith, *Assistant Organist-Choirmaster*

Readers:

Jennifer Gibbs

Sandra Ireland

Bronwyn Saatkamp

Sam Shipley

Simon Wadsworth, *Senior Warden*

Special thanks to Lucy McLemore & Lynda Strickland

Video Production, Noah Glenn from Perpetual Motion