

CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Children's Nativity Pageant and Eucharist at 5 pm

Preludes to the Eucharist at 11 pm

followed by Festal Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Eucharist with Carols at 9 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Eucharist at 5 pm



ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

158 West High Street

Somerville, NJ 08876

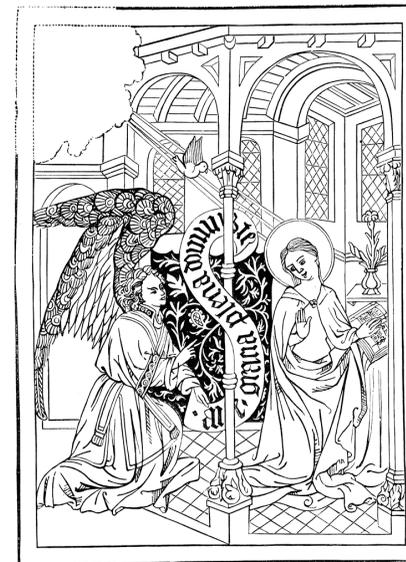
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The Reverend Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*

The Reverend W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon*

Mark A. Trautman, *Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator*



LESSONS & CAROLS

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 at 5 o'clock in the afternoon

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE

in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

We are glad you are here and we invite you to enter fully into worship this afternoon. When you enter our church with its crenelated tower, projecting gargoyles, stout buttresses, and warmly recognized big red doors, we hope you will see what St. John's is all about: worship, community and service. As we strive to live out the two great commandments of our Lord, to love the Lord our God and our neighbor, we hope you will find St. John's to become more and more your spiritual home where so many others have already found a home.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." This four-week preparation for Christmas is an anticipation of the feast of Jesus' birth and a reminder that Christ will come again in great power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was developed by Dean Eric Milner-White for King's College, Cambridge, England at the end of the First World War. In 1934, he adapted the service for use in Advent. As Dean Milner-White has written, "the main theme of the service is the development of the loving purposes of God ... seen through the windows and the words of the Bible."

We invite you to enter into the music and prayers this evening, allow them to transform you, and to give thanks for the blessing and joy of worshiping together in this holiday season.

Cover: *The Annunciation*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP
Fr. Ron Pollock, *Officiant*
Deacon Keith McCoy, *Deacon*

READERS
Luke Robinson
Zoe Latanision
John Cunningham
Mark Trautman
Bobbi Agins
Mark Hernandez
Dee Britt
Deacon Keith McCoy
Fr. Ron Pollock

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHOIR
Mark A. Trautman, *Director*
Carol Boyer
Leo A. Campos
John Cunningham
Tracey Jameson
Debbie Jelinek
Liz Lande
Ian Latanision
Zoe Latanision
Margaret Massey
Manuel Ovando

INSTRUMENTALISTS
Christian Carrillo, *oboe*
Peter Saleh, *percussion*

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Deacon Let us bless Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please sing

CAROL

ADESTE FIDELES

Text: Latin 18th century; tr. Frederick Oakley, alt.

Tune: John Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi, 1751

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2 God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
glory to God, glory in the highest;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

VOLUNTARY *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* J. S. Bach



LESSONS & CAROLS

All stand as the tower bells are rung and the procession gathers

CAROL

VENI EMMANUEL

Text: before the 9th century, tr. John Mason Neale and others

Tune: French Processional, Mode I

The choir sings the first two stanzas alone

Choir O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

All join in singing the remaining stanzas

3 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be for us the Prince of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Officiant welcomes the people and says

Officiant

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves 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 look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs 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 gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying

God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King!*

3

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King!*

4

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King!*

COLLECT

Officiant

Let us pray. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People

Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Officiant

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People

Amen.

Choir El cielo canta alegría, ¡alleluya!
porque a tu vida y la mía las une el amor de Dios. *Estrillo*

Choir El cielo canta alegría, ¡alleluya!
porque tu vida y la mía proclamarán al Señor. *Estrillo*

*[Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia!
for in your life and in mine is shining the glory of God. Refrain*

*Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia!
for your life and mine untie in the love of our God. Refrain*

*Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia!
for your life and mine will always bear witness to God. Refrain]*

—Pablo Sosa

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rector



During the offering, please feel free to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device, or visit <https://www.simplechurchgiving.net/app/giving/st158149>. This evening's offerings will be given to the Brent F. Miller Memorial Music Fund to support the music ministries of St. John's Church

CAROL

REGENT SQUARE

Text: James Montgomery, 1816; Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1867

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King!*

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,

**ALL 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.**

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

read by an Acolyte

Reader A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their

God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

CAROL *Spiritual, arr. André Thomas*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
 the time is drawing nigh;
 Children don't get weary til your work is done!
 Christian journey soon be over,
 the time is drawing nigh.

—African-American Spiritual

SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*
read by a Chorister

Reader The birth of Christ is foretold

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

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 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.

CAROL *Pablo Sosa*

Choir El cielo canta alegría, ¡alleluya!
 porque en tu vida y la mía brilla la gloria de Dios.

Estríbillo / Refrain

ALL

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL

John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

—Galician, tr. J.B. Trend

Please stand

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14
read by the Rector

Reader

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory

CAROL

Melissa Dunphy

I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within you.
I will take away your heart of stone.
I will give you a heart of flesh.

—Ezekiel 36:26

THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

read by a member of the Parish Choir

Reader

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem
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. Therefore,
he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has
brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the
people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his
God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the
ends of the earth.

Please stand and sing

CAROL

ST. LOUIS

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1867; Tune: Lewis Redner, 1867

1

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Please be seated

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

read by the Organist-Choirmaster

Reader

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on the Holy One

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and

CAROL

Vijay Singh

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.

Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

Gratias agimus tibi propter nostram gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus.

[Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace to all those of good will.

We praise you. We bless you.

We worship you. We glorify you.

*We give thanks to you because of your great glory,
Lord God.]*

—based on Luke 2:14

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

read by the Deacon

Reader

The Magi are led by the star to the Christ Child

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

3 Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Please be seated

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

read by a member of the Vestry

Reader

The shepherds go to the manger

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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.

CAROL

Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, Love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God our flesh that fashioned,
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to Truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

—H. W. Baker

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

read by a member of the Altar Guild

Reader

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

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

CAROL

Simon Lindley

Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum.
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus
 et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
 Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
 ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 nunc et in hora mortis nostræ. Amen.

*[Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.
 Blessed are you among women
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, mother of God,
 pray for us sinners,
 now and in the hour of our death. Amen.]*

—based on Luke 1:28

SIXTH LESSON

*Luke 2:1-7
 read by a Lay Reader*

Reader

The birth of Jesus the Messiah

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

Please stand and sing

CAROL

STILLE NACHT

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818

Tune: Franz Grüber, 1818, harm. Carl Reinecke

- 1 Silent night, holy night,
 all is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child,
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night,
 shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!