



**A Festival of Lessons & Carols I
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020 · 5:00 pm**

Order of Service

Prelude *played by the Christ Church Bell Choir*

Come, thou redeemer of the Earth
O come, little children
Away in a Manger
Carol of the Bells
In the bleak midwinter
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head
Little sweetly sleeping Jesus
Still, Still, Still
Silent Night

Hymn *[Sung by the choir]*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Words: C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

Melody: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); Harmony: Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

Final Verse arranged by David Wilcocks (1919-2015)

Officiant Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, be it this night our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.



Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this parish church, dedicated to Christ our Lord, glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill among all people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All

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.

First Lesson [*Read by Teddy Erensen, Chorister*]

Genesis 3

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.



Thanks be to God.

Carol [*Sung by the choir*]

Ding dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And *io, io, io,*
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: Sixteenth Century French tune harmonized by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Second Lesson [*Read by Patrick Fennig, Gentleman of the Choir*]

Isaiah 9

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn [*Sung by the choir*]

God Rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,



For Jesus Christ our Savior
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: English Traditional Carol, arranged by David Willcocks

Third Lesson [*Read by Pam Ferraro, Choir Parent*]

Luke 1

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

Carol [*Sung by the choir*]

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!*

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,



All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
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!*

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Music: *Basque Carol*, arranged by David Willcocks

Fourth Lesson [*Read by Jamie Hitel, Director of Music*]

Matthew 1

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Thanks be to God.

Carol [*Sung by the choir*]

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.

Words: John Brande Trend (1887-1958)
Music: John Joubert (1927-2019)

Fifth Lesson [*Read by George Belshaw Jr, Senior Warden*]

Luke 2

The Shepherds go to the manger

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn [*Sung by the choir*]

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.’

‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:’



The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
Melody: Este's Psalter, 1592

Sixth Lesson [*Read by the Rev. Shancia Jarrett, Curate*]

Matthew 2

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.



Carol [*Sung by the choir*]

Sing Lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying.
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now a-dozing,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby! is the babe a-waking?
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
Sing lullaby!

Words:, Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Music: *Basque Carol* arranged by Philip Moore (b. 1943)

Seventh Lesson [*Read by the Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Rector*]

John 1

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in



darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

Greeting & Notices

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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christchurchgreenwich.org/e-news

To support the ministry and witness of Christ Church, visit bit.ly/givetochristchurch.

Let us with gladness present the alms and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Priest Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn [*Sung by the choir*]

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,



Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
Final Verse arranged by David Willcocks

Blessing [*said by Officiant*]

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Voluntary

Grand Choeur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)



When exiting the sanctuary, please use the transept (side) doors and shown in the map below:



If you have been moved by the witness of Christ Church and would like to know more about joining this parish, please visit christchurchgreenwich.org/membership/.

Serving Today

<i>Officiant</i>	The Rev. Terry Elsberry
<i>Choir</i>	Choir of Men & Boys
<i>Director of Music</i>	Jamie Hitel
<i>Associate Director of Music</i>	Jonathan Vaughn
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Pam Kelly
<i>Head Usher</i>	David Michonski
<i>Ushers</i>	Linda Michonski Susan Ness
<i>Verger</i>	Matthew Sullivan

*The altar greens are given to the Glory of God
in memory of Anna L. and John S. Griswold, by their family;
by Brian & Mary MacDonald and family, in thanksgiving for the lives of
Suzanne B. & William L. Chapman Jr. and Gordon Chalmers MacDonald;
by John and Becky Ford, in loving memory of John's father, Kenneth Neil Ford.*