



**A Festival of Lessons & Carols with Sermon
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020 · 5:00 pm**

Order of Service

Prelude *played by Jonathan Vaughn, Associate Director of Music*

Puer nobis nascitur

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Christmas Cradle Song

Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

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 Ethan Cooper, 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 eve'time 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 Jamie Hesser, Youth Vestry Representative*]

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.

English Traditional Carol, arranged by David Willcocks

Third Lesson [*Read by Rob Morris, former 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 Lawrence DeVan*]

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 the Rev. Shancia Jarrett, Curate*]

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. Dr. Cheryl McFadden, Senior Associate 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:

Sign up for Email and stay connected with all that we have to offer:

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.



Sermon

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie, Rector

The Collect for Christmas Eve

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*]

O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

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

Words: 18th Century Latin; Translated by F. Oakeley and others
Tune: *Adeste Fideles*; Harmony: The English Hymnal
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

In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)



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

Officiant & Preacher
Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie
The Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden
The Rev. Abby VanderBrug
The Rev. Shancia Jarrett
The Rev. Terry Elsberry

Acolyte

Matthew Sullivan

Choir

Choir of Men & Boys

Director of Music

Jamie Hitel

Associate Director of Music

Jonathan Vaughn

Altar Guild

Pam Kelly

Head Usher

David Michonski

Ushers

Linda Michonski

Susan Ness

Anne Drake

Ann & Lawrence DeVan

Verger

Tim Carpenter



The Christmas decorations are given to the glory of God:

by Dr. & Mrs. Darrick E. Antell, in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. E. James Antell and Dr. Stanley Sobottka;

by Peter, Beth, Emma, and Steele Barhydt, in loving memory of Robert & Muriel and Ceia Webb, Judge Robert & Grace Williamson, and Dirck Barhydt;

In loving memory of Anne Savage Barnum, by her family;

by Lucy & John Barrett, in loving memory of the families of Frances & Otey McClellan and Nancy & C. Redington Barrett;

by Jytte B. Maydole, in loving memory of her sons, Robert Beauregard and John Beauregard;

by Gail Stoddart, in loving memory of her mother, Nan C. Birdsey;

in loving memory of John Broderick, by his wife, Judy Broderick;

in loving memory of Vernon Howland Brown, veteran of WWII, 14th Armored Division, by Annette Brown and family;

by Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence S. DeVan and family, in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. W. Todd DeVan and Mr. & Mrs. David S. LeVan;

by Sherry & George Dey, in memory of loved ones;

by the Edwards family, in loving memory of Charles & Lisa Edwards, Carlos & Winston Edwards, Agnes Kay, Bill Bowen, "Betty" Bowen, Mel & Peg Larson, Mel Larson, Jr., Aveneth D'Aquila, Robin

Meadows, Robert Fahey and Francis Ambrogio;

by Daphne Finney, in memory of loved ones;

by Mandy Fry, in loving memory of her parents, Jack & Betty Cluett, and her brother, Ernest H. Cluett II;

in loving memory of James & Barrington Fuchs, by their family.

in loving memory of Lucy Hawley, by her sisters, Susan Hawley Kelly, Robin Hawley Wood and Courtney Hawley Newell;

by the Hotchkiss family, in loving memory of Joseph W. Hotchkiss, Eugenia W. Hotchkiss and Noah W. Hotchkiss;

by Deborah Huffard, in loving memory of her husband, Phillip Huffard, her son, Wick Huffard, and her parents, Martha & Frank Battin;

by the William Hughes family, in memory of Ryland E.D. Chase and Helen Schley Hughes;

by Michael Kovner & Jean Doyen de Montaignou, in loving memory of Kathleen Dorothea Lane Kovner and Kathleen "Kay" Barbara Kovner;

in loving memory of Gloria Lange, by her daughter, Caryn Cluett Gregg and family;

in loving memory of Gloria Noel Lange, by her son, David Cluett, and her granddaughter, Skylar Cluett;



by the Lockhart and Djuranovic families, in loving memory of Grace Strahan Zoephel, Karl H. Zoephel, Grace Dagmar Strahan and Joseph C.J. Strahan;

by Carmen McClain, in loving memory of her beloved husband, Donald R. McClain;

by Wynn McDaniel, in loving memory of her parents, Elizabeth R. and James R. McDaniel;

by Maggie & David McGirr, in loving memory of Lydia & Bill Richardson, Diane & Edward McGirr, Rebecca McGirr and Catherine Nix;

by Pam & Doug Kelly, in memory of Robert Charles McIntyre and Robert Charles McIntyre Jr.;

in loving memory of Philip Wahmann Ness Jr., by his grandchildren, Alix, James and George;

by Dr. & Mrs. John Nicholson, in loving memory of Lee & Linn Grim, Diana & John P. Nicholson, Sr;

in loving memory of Anthony R. Potter, by his family;

by Barbara Robinson, in loving memory her husband, John R. Robinson, her daughter, Abigail Robinson Bowers and her husband, Thomas Bowers;

in loving memory of Dr. Robert Schwimmer & Bette Schwimmer, by their children and family;

by Scott and Lynne Smith and family, with grateful hearts for all those who have gone before us and on whose shoulders we stand, thanks be to God;

by Susan and Lawrence Sterne, "Blessed is the Season!"

by Pat Swasey, Loring and Sharon Swasey, and Courtenay & Peter Crawford, in loving memory of Emily Crocker Swasey;

in honor of John Tabner and in memory of Lee Tabner and Carol Craven, by Kate, Michael, Samantha, Nick and Walker;

in loving memory of Anne Thomson, by her husband, Jere, and their children, Kate, Alice and Peter;

by Wendy Thorenz, in loving memory of Anita, Alfred and Al Thorenz;

in loving memory of Susan Bray Walker and Elizabeth Grace Walker, by David & Bobbie Walker;

by Beverly & John Watling, in memory of loved ones;

by Lizora, Clay, Logan and Cliff Yonce, in loving memory of Samuel McClay Yonce.