

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

Christmas Eve

8:00 PM

The Festival of Lessons and Carols



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

WIDE OPEN HEARTS
WIDE OPEN DOORS

December 24, 2021

About this Service

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880. The lessons were reordered in 1919, and what follows are the lessons that have been used since that time. At King's College, the Festival is a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons, and music, move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide. Many other parishes have adopted the tradition, occasionally modifying it as needed.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude

Echo Noël

Louis Claude D'Aquin

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Irby

*The choir sings stanzas 1-3.
The congregation sings stanzas 4-6.*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly;
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

A Bidding Prayer

Presider 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 gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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.**

Presider 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.**

Invocatory

The truth from above

Ralph Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose
For so a promise soon did run
That He'd redeem us with a Son.

The first thing, which I do relate,
That God at first did man create
The next thing, which to you I tell,
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus He in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved
And if you want to know the way
Be pleased to hear what He did say.

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Read by Peter Ryker

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

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.” He 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.”

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay y’bounden, Bounden in a bond, Four thousand winters Thought he not too long. And all was for an apple An apple that he took As clerkes finden written in their book.	Nay had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Nay had never our lady Abeen heavenly queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was, Therefore we moun singen <i>‘Deo gracias!’</i>
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Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Margaret Dowling

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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 trampling 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.

Thanks be to God.

On Christmas night, all Christians sing
 To hear the news, the angels bring
 News of great joy, news of great mirth
 News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should men on Earth be sad,
 Since our Redeemer made us glad?
 When from our sin He set us free
 All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace
 Then life and health come in its place.
 Angels and men with joy may sing
 For all to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
 Which made the angels sing this night.
 Glory to God and peace to men
 Now and forever more. Amen.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Andy Gutknecht

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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 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.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing.

Carol

Es ist ein Ros

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

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. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing.

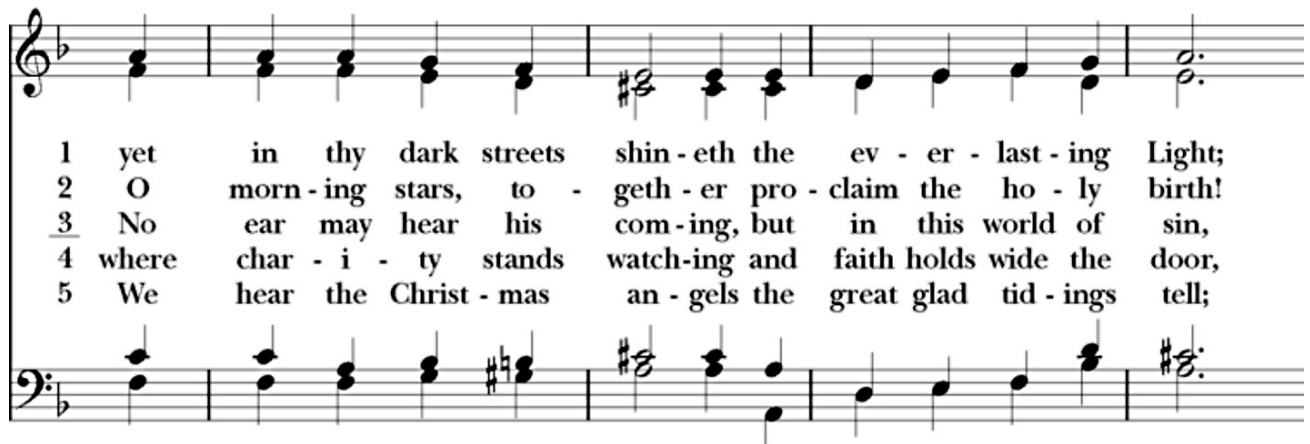
Carol

St. Louis

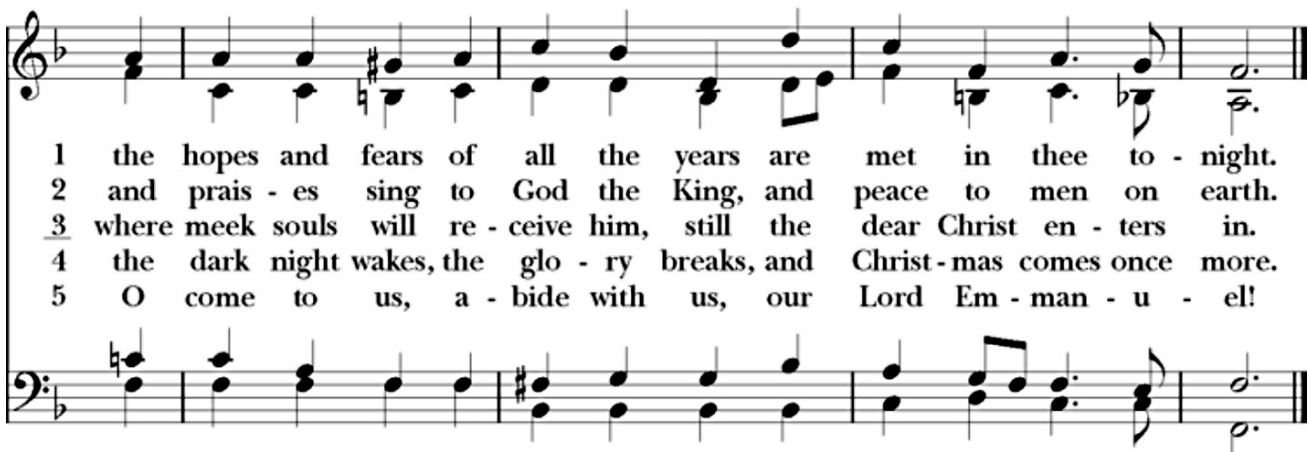
The Choir sings stanza 3.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the ev-er-last-ing Light;
 2 O morn-ing stars, to-gether pro-claim the ho-ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com-ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char-i-ty stands watch-ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ-mas an-gels the great glad tid-ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
 2 and prais-es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re-ceive him, still the dear Christ en-ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo-ry breaks, and Christ-mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a-bide with us, our Lord Em-man-u-el!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by Phillips Brooks (our second Rector) for the Sunday School at The Church of Holy Trinity in 1868, after he had visited Bethlehem in 1865. The fourth stanza was not included in the hymnal until 1940 and is still missing from many hymnals. Brooks' organist, Lewis H. Redner, wrote the original tune for these words. The hymn was first published in 1874 and the tune was named St. Louis.

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Ave Maris Stella

Lajos Bárdos

Ave, maris stella,
Dei mater alma,
atque semper virgo,
felix cœli porta.

Hail, star of the sea,
Nurturing Mother of God,
And ever Virgin
Happy gate of Heaven

Sumens illud "Ave"
Gabrielis ore,
funda nos in pace,
mutans Evæ nomen.

Receiving that "Hail!"
From the mouth of Gabriel,
Establish us in peace,
Transforming the name of "Eva".

Solve vincla reis,
profer lumen cæcis,
mala nostra pelle,
bona cuncta posce.

Loosen the chains of the guilty,
Send forth light to the blind,
Our evil do thou dispel,
Entreat for us all good things.

Virgo singularis,
inter omnes mitis,
nos culpis solutos
mites fac et castos.

O unique Virgin,
Meek above all others,
Make us, set free from our sins,
Meek and chaste.

Vitam præsta puram,
iter para tutum,
ut videntes Jesum
semper collætémur.

Bestow a pure life,
Prepare a safe way:
That seeing Jesus,
We may ever rejoice.

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Read by Sally Griffith

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

The Blessed Son of God

Vaughan Williams

The blessed son of God only	The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
In a crib full poor did lie;	Was a guest and a stranger here;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood	Us for to bring from misery,
Was clothed that everlasting good.	That we might live eternally.
Kyrie eleison.	Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Kyrie eleison.

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Read by Donald Meineke

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.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing.
Carol

Winchester Old

Descant

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line
4 "The heav - en - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throng

2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
6 good will hence - forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Read by The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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.’ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

My Lord has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.	Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.
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His love will hold me,
his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,

sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

All stand.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Read by The Rev. John Gardner

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. 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.

Thanks be to God.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with 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.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal Hymn

Stanzas 1-3 and 6 only.

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

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**The Christmas flowers in the Church
 are offered to the glory of God
 and in thanksgiving and loving memory of the lives of...**

In Memory of Adam and Edna Cunningham by: Reauncan Williams

*In Memory of Jeannetta Drysdale Lee Burger and W. Atlee Burpee, Jr. and Anne Mitchell
 by: Murray Richards Richey*

**We also graciously thank those who donated Advent wreaths,
 and any other flowers...**

*Martha & Thomas Lipscomb
 Jon Sagle & Amy Perkins*

Please visit our website: www.htrit.org for more information about services and activities at The Church of the Holy Trinity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Giving: There are several ways to still give at CHT. You can text, CHT DONATE to 73256 or scan the QR code. Standard text message rates apply. You can give electronically [here](#). You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).



Join our E-List: Sign up at www.htrit.org

PARTICIPANTS in the service today

Officiants:

The Rev. John Gardner
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Readers:

Peter Ryker
Margaret Dowling
Andy Gutknecht
Gail Caruso
Will Dowling
Sally Griffith

Musicians:

Donald Meineke, Director
Ben Leiby Associate
Choir: Gail Caruso, Carl Ellinwood, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Alyson Harvey, Kate Nicole Hoffman, Samuel Keeler, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Ellen Peters, Aimee Pilgermayer, and Kelly Rubinsohn

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Dr. John French, *Organist/Choirmaster emeritus*
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Kile Smith, *Composer-in-Residence*
Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

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Michael Uftring, *Accounting Warden*
Nancy Rasmussen, *Clerk*
Vestry Members - Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Gordon P. Henderson, Simson Hui, Martha Lipscomb, Greg Maughan, Madelyn Mignatti, Martha Lipscomb, and Emily Stromberg

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THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

