The Church of the Holy Trinit

Rittenhouse Square

Christmas Eve

8:00 PM The Festival *of* Lessons & Carols



WIDE OPEN HEARTS WIDE OPEN DOORS

December 24, 2022

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.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

Welcome

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

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



Irby



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. 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.





First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Read by Andy Gutknecht

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 Adam lay y'bounden, Nay had the apple taken been, Bounden in a bond, The apple taken been, Four thousand winters Nay had never our lady Thought he not too long. 'Deo gracias!' Abeen heavenly queen. Blessed be the time And all was for an apple An apple that he took That apple taken was, As clerkes finden written in their book. Therefore we moun singen 'Deo gracias!' *Deo gracias = "Thanks be to God." 'Deo gracias!'

Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Read by Peter Ryker

Phillip Ledger

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.

Carol

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring	Gives life and luster, public mirth
Than a carol for to sing	To Heaven, and the under-Earth.
The birth of this our Heavenly King?	We see him come, and know him ours,
Awake the voice! Awake the string!	Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,	Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
And give the honor to this day	The darling of the world is come
That sees December turned to May.	And fit it is, we find a room
Why does the chilling winter's morn	To welcome him, to welcome him.
Smile, like a field beset with corn?	The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn	Which we will give him; and bequeath
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see	This holly and this ivy wreath,
The 'cause, why things thus fragrant be:	To do him honor, who's our King
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth	And Lord of all this reveling.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Marshall McMain

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



Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5

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 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing. Carol



"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.



Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Read by Sally Griffith

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.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;	Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,	blessed art thou among women,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus	and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,	Holy Mary, Mother of God,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,	pray for us sinners,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.	now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Ave Maria

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

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

As dew in Aprylle I sing of a maiden that is matchless,

He came as still to his mother's bower As dew in April that falls on the flower. He came as still where his mother lav As dew in April that falls on the spray.

Mother and maiden there was never, none but she: Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds go to the manger.

King of all kings for her son she chose.

He came as still where his mother was

As dew in April that falls on the grass.

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

Read by Beth Hollingshead

Peter Warlock

Read by Donald Meineke

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.



Stanza 6 continues on the following page...

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. John 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

No Small Wonder

Paul Edwards

Small wonder the star. small wonder the light, the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright; but stable and manger for God no small wonder! Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore; but God gives his life on a cross no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace, the power, the glory, the light of his face; but all to redeem my poor heart no small wonder!

All stand.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

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 Offering

During the singing of "O Come All Ye Faithful", we will be passing the offering plates. If you prefer to give online, you can text CHT DONATE to 73256 or scan the QR Code to the right. Your generous gifts go to support our Open Hearts Café, the magnificent Music Programs by our Choir and Choristers, our amazing staff and this beautiful building.



Carol







Refrain

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

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*People* Thanks be to God.

The PostludeIn dulci jubilo, BWV 729Johann Sebastian Bach

Permission to reprint, broadcast, and/or stream the music in this service has been obtained from One License with license #A-735450

Join us tomorrow as we celebrate The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:00 AM

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 Reauchean Williams

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

> In Memory of Rose and Augustine Milano by Joan Milano

In Honor of Loved Ones and in Memory of Friends by Peg Mertz and Michael Lynagh

> In Honor of our Children by The Revs. John and Rachel Gardner

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

PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

Officiants: The Rev. John Gardner The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Procession: Carl Ellinwood, Crucifer Marshall McMain & Amy Perkins, Torchbearers

Musicians & Choir: Dr. Donald Meineke, Director of Music Dr. Ben Leiby, Associate Organist

Soprano:

Gail Caruso Stephanie DeMane Franny Geller Aimee Pilgermayer Clara Swartzentruber <u>Alto</u>:

Alyson Harvey Ellen Peters Amanda Staub <u>Tenor</u>: Carl Ellinwood Brian Felty Samual Keeler Mike O'Bryan

Bass:

Will Dowling Andrew Gutknecht Thomas Kneeland John Miles Titus Muzi

Readers: Lesson 1: Andy Gutknecht Lesson 2: Peter Ryker Lesson 3: Marshall McMain Lesson 4: Gail Caruso Lesson 5: Sally Griffith Lesson 6: Beth Hollingshead Lesson 7: Donald Meineke Lesson 8: John Gardner Lesson 9: Rachel Gardner

Church of the Holy Trinity, Staff Leadership

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector The Rev. John Gardner, Rector Donald R. Meineke, Director of Music Fatimah Lane, Director of Operations Ella Christy, Rentals Manager Meg Cooley, Communications Coordinator Dr. Benjamin Leiby, Associate Organist Demetrius Swinson, Assistant to the Dir of Operations Daniel Cooper, Media Coordinator Julie White, Receptionist & House Staff Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence Dr. John French, Organist/Choirmaster emeritus

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Carl Ellinwood, Brian Felty, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Alyson Harvey, Kate Nicole Hoffman, Samual Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Mike O'Bryan, Ellen Peters, Aimee Pilgermayer, & Amanda Staub

Church of the Holy Trinity, Vestry Leadership

Oscar Gunther & Simson Hui, *Rectors' Co-wardens* Michael Uftring & Greg Maughan, *Accounting Co-warden* Nancy Rasmussen, *Clerk*; Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Susan Leidy, Martha Lipscomb, & Emily Stromberg, *Vestry*

