

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

Christmas Eve

The Festival of Lessons & Carols

8:00 PM

LESSONS
AND

Carols



December 24, 2024

WELCOME

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

OUR VIVID VISION

This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshipers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

CORE VALUES

INCLUSION/WELCOME

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

INNOVATION

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

COLLABORATION

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

CULTURE

JOYFUL

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

FEARLESS

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

EMBRACING

We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

ENGAGED

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

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.

FESTIVAL of LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

Variations sur un Noël Bourguignon

André Fleury

THE ENTRANCE RITE

All rise in body or in spirit at the tolling of the bells.

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
 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 sta - ble should dis - play heav - en's Word, the world's crea -
 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in
 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -
 was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.____
 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads his chil - dren on _____ to the place where he is gone.____
 vealed to faith - ful eye, _____ set at God's right hand on high.____

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.**

Please be seated.

A Boy was Born in Bethlehem;
 Rejoice for that, Jerusalem! Alleluya.
 He let himself a servant be,
 That all mankind he might set free: Alleluya.
 Then praise the Word of God who came
 To dwell within a human frame: Alleluya.

Anon. 16th Century

THE LESSONS

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

Peter Warlock

| | |
|---|---|
| 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. | Ne 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 'Deo gracias!' |
|---|---|

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Look unto Abraham

Alice Parker

"Look unto Abraham" was commissioned by the Church of the Holy Trinity, John French, Organist-Choirmaster, for the Festival of Lessons and Carols in 1998. Alice Parker was one of the most prolific American choral composers of the 20th century. She was a long-time friend of CHT, and her music is a major part of the choir's repertoire. She died on Christmas Eve, 2023; this piece is performed in her memory.

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you:
for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.
For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places;
and he will make her wilderness like Eden,
and her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness shall be found therein,
thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 51:2-3

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Mark Ritter

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.

All rise in body or in spirit to sing.

Carol

Personet Hodie

Introduction



1 On this day earth shall ring
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head,
 4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

Please be seated

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.

Carol

There is no Rose

Robert Young

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space: Res Miranda (*thing to be marveled at*).
By that rose we may well see
there be one God in persons three: Pares forma (*of equal form*).
The angels sung the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gaudeamus (*let us rejoice*)
Leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyful birth: Transeamus (*let us cross over*).

Anonymous, 15th century

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

Gabriel's Message

arr. Edgar Pettman and
Francis Melville

1 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!

2 "For know 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!

3 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!

4 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!

Sabine Baring-Gould

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.

All rise in body or in spirit to sing.

“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.

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- geth-er 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!

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Read by Benjamin Leiby

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.

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,
 Watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.
 The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
 Silence more lovely than music folded the hill.
 There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
 Larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.
 Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
 Telling of God being born in the world of men.
 And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,
 Our love, our hopes, ourselves we give to your son.

Clive Sansom

All rise in body or in spirit 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 thron

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.

Please be seated.

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

O Leave Your Sheep

Kenneth Leighton

O leave your sheep, your lambs that follow after, You'll find him laid within a simple stable,
O leave the brook, the pasture and the crook. A babe newborn, in poverty forlorn.
No longer weep, turn weeping into laughter, In love array'd, a love so deep, 'tis able
O shepherds seek your goal, to search the night for you,
Your Lord, your Lord, who cometh to console. 'tis he, 'tis he, 'tis he the Shepherd true.

O kings so great, a light is streaming o'er you,
More radiant far than diadem or star,
Forego your state, a baby lies before you,
whose wonder shall be told,
Bring myrrh, bring myrrh, bring frankincense and gold.

All rise in body or in spirit.

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.

Carol

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

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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.

Welcome

The Offertory

During the anthem 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, our amazing staff and this beautiful building.



Anthem

God is with us

John Tavener

God is with us.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The people that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined.

For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given,

God is with us,

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,

God is with us,

The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth:

God is with us, Christ is born.

The Prayers

Robbin McCarthy

Leader God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears

a moment of silence is held.

Leader Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope. We pray for your courage and peace.

a moment of silence is held.

Leader Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now.

a moment of silence is held

Leader Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate, and gracious. May we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ.

All **Amen.**

Carol

Stille Nacht

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,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

The Blessing

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

All **Amen.**

Presider May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

All **Amen.**

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal Hymn

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head sec; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Postlude on 'Adeste fidelis'

Eric Thiman

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Join us tomorrow as we celebrate
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:00 AM

The Christmas flowers in the Church are offered to the glory of God...

by Ashley and Ray Del Bianco

In Memory of Bob & Judy Reiff

by Alyssa & Farzad Force

In Memory of Jeannetta Drysdale Lee Burpee & W. Atlee Burpee, Jr.

by Murray Richards Richey

In Memory of Anne Mitchell

by Murray Richards Richey

Thanksgiving for Richard, Loren & Alexander Kagen

In Memory of Nancy & Charlie Simpson

by Shreve Simson

In Memory of Mary Anne Foreman & James B. Griffith

by Sally Griffith

In memory of our loved ones & In honor of our friends

by Peg Mertz

In Loving Memory of Adam & Edna Cunningham

Adam Cunningham, Jr.

by Reaucheane Williams

In Memory of Joan Bensinger, In Memory of Mitzi Cooper

In Memory of Bill Kelly

by Don McKenzie

In Honor of our Children

by The Revs. John and Rachel Gardner

PARTICIPANTS THIS EVENING

Officiants:

The Rev. John Gardner
The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Musicians & Choir:

Benjamin Leiby, *Interim Organist-Choirmaster*
Wesley Parrott, *Assisting Organist*

Soprano:

Gail Caruso
Stephanie DeMane
Franny Geller
Aimee Pilgermayer
Erica Rose Smith
Julianna Smith

Alto:

Patricia Conrad
Amanda Staub

Tenor:

Samual Keeler
Eddie Rubeiz

Bass:

Will Dowling
Andrew Gutknecht
John Miles
Ricky Torres-Cooban

Readers:

Lesson 1: Andy Gutknecht
Lesson 2: Sally Griffith
Lesson 3: Mark Ritter
Lesson 4: Robbin McCarthy
Lesson 5: Amanda Staub
Lesson 6: Gail Caruso
Lesson 7: Benjamin Leiby
Lesson 8: Rachel Wenner Gardner
Lesson 9: John Gardner

Ushers:

Monica Heuer & Christopher Stromberg

Acolytes:

Nicholas & Cole Stromberg

**THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

