

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



St. James's Episcopal Church

December 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

St. James's Episcopal Church
The First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 26, 2021
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A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude: Two Settings of Vom Himmel hoch Johann Pachelbel

Hymn 102 (vs 1, 2, 4, 6): Irby, "Once in royal David's city"
v. 1 - Soloist; vs. 2, 4, 6 - All

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see 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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within Richmond. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant

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.

Hymn 105: *God Rest You Merry*, “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-15

Susan Coogan

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

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. 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."

Reader Glory to God in the highest!
People And on earth, peace and goodwill.

Carol: Adam lay ybounden

Peter Warlock

Adam lay ybounden
Bounden in a bond
Four thousand winters
Though 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 bound singen
Deo gracias, deo gracias!

Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Harry Warner, Jr.

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. 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.

Reader Glory to God in the highest!
People And on earth, peace and goodwill.

Hymn 115: *Greensleeves*, “What child is this”

Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Harry Turton, Jr.

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.

Reader Glory to God in the highest!*People* And on earth, peace and goodwill.**Carol:** Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary

Thomas Foster

Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary,
Christ has risen from the tomb;
on the cross a suffering victim,
now as victor he is come.

Whom your tears in death were mourning,
welcome with your smiles returning.
Let your alleluias rise!

Raise your weary eyelids, Mary,
see him living evermore;
see his countenance, how gracious,
see the wounds for you he bore.

All the glory of the morning
pales before those wounds redeeming.
Let your alleluias rise!

Life is yours for ever, Mary,
for your light is come once more
and the strength of death is broken;
now your songs of joy outpour.
Ended now the night of sorrow,
love has brought the blessed morrow.
Let your alleluias rise.

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-16

Jordan H. F. McKittrick

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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. 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.

Reader Glory to God in the highest!
People And on earth, peace and goodwill.

Hymn 87: Mendelssohn, “Hark! the herald angels sing””

Fifth Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-12

Jeanette McKittrick

Christians are reminded that God is eternally revealed to us through the Son.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Reader Glory to God in the highest!*People* And on earth, peace and goodwill.**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.

His love will hold me, his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.

Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;
no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

The Congregation stands.

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

The Rev. Dr. John McCard

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader Glory to God in the highest!*People* And on earth, peace and goodwill.**Hymn 112: Cranham, "In the bleak mid-winter"****Collect***Officiant* The Lord be with you.*People* And also with you.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Greetings and Announcements

Offering of Gifts and Praise

Solo: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Hymn 107 (v.1): *In dulci jubilo*, “Good Christian friends, rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Prayers for the Parish

Christmas Prayer

Officiant

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. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth
and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 96: *Gloria*, “Angels we have heard on high”

Postlude: Fantasia on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of

B. V. and Florence G. Aylor

Robert L. and Blanche W Jones

Service Participants

Officiant: The Reverend Dr. John McCard

Lectors: Susan Coogan, Harry Warner, Jr., Harry Turton, Jr., Jordan H. F. McKittrick, and Jeanette McKittrick

Musicians: Parish Choir

Soloist: Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs

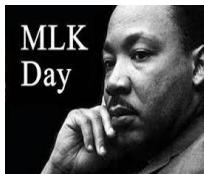
Pianist: Lisa Niemeier

Choir: Jeanne Lapierre, Heather Jones, Chris Rock, John Tyndall

Guest Organist: Charles Lindsey

Director of Music: Dr. Mark A. Whitmire

Martin Luther King, Jr. Evensong: Sunday, January 16, at 5:00 p.m.



A service in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will feature St. James's Choirs and the Concert Choir of Norfolk State University, one of the premiere African-American ensembles in the country, directed by Dr. Harlan Zachery. Dr. Carl W. Haywood, former director of the Concert Choir, preeminent organist, conductor, composer, and editor of *Lift Every Voice* will be the Organist and Guest Conductor. Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech will be read by Melody Barnes, UVA Professor of Law and former Director of the Domestic Policy Council under President Obama.

News and Events

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