

Trinity Episcopal Church



A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2025, 10:30 am

Invite. Include. Inspire.

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Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church!

We are delighted to have you with us today.

Everything that you need for the liturgy can be found in this bulletin. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Children are always welcome in the church.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons and Carols, though drawn from ancient sources, was devised by Edward White Benson (1829-1896) when he was Archbishop of Truro. In 1882 he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

The format for LESSONS AND CAROLS, as originally planned by Archbishop Benson, was much more complex than in its form today. In 1918 the service was modified for King's College Chapel at Cambridge University, England, and since that time has been presented there annually.

The King's College format is not always strictly observed, but the general plan of the telling of God's purpose, from Creation to the Incarnation, through scripture readings and carols, forms the basic framework of all such services.

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The Word of God

Prelude: Organist

Please stand as you are able for the procession.

Processional: **Once in Royal David's City**

H-102 vs 1,2,3 & 5



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
5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

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 -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so

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
5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

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.
5 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

A Bidding Prayer

Officiant: 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.

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.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas Day *(in unison)*

God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Please be seated

The Congregation remains seated for the singing of the hymns during the Lessons and Carols.

The First Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 79 vs 1,2 & 5

**1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

**5 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

The Second Lesson:

Luke 1:26-28

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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

H 87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail,
the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain

The Third Lesson:

Luke 2:1-20

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.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *The First Nowell*

H109 vss 1, 2 & 6

vs 1: The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor
 shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold
 winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

vs 2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east
 beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great
 light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

Vs. 6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our
 heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth
 of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

The Fourth Lesson:

John 1:1-14

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Hymn # 82 vs. 1,2 & 3



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on



are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

Prayers of the People: Form III *(Peoples' response in bold)*

Lector: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Silence*

Officiant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Announcements

The Offertory

The usher now gathers our offerings for the work of the church.

The Offertory Sentence:

Officiant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His name:
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music : Trinity Children

Away In A Manger

H 101



Commented [TC1]:

Please Stand

Presentation Hymn: In the Bleak Mid-Winter # 112 vs 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him give my heart.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: *And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,*

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.**

The Blessing

Officiant: *May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our 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 us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

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

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

Recessional Hymn: *Joy to the World* #100 vss. 1, 2, 4

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

Dismissal:

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Organist*



Those Serving Today

Officiant: Jim Beerbower
Organist: Joel Hootman
Lectors: Katie Sparks and Joan Swank
Camera: Evanthia Owen
Ushers: Pat Marchal
Altar Guild: Cheryl Jackson and Mary Siegel



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