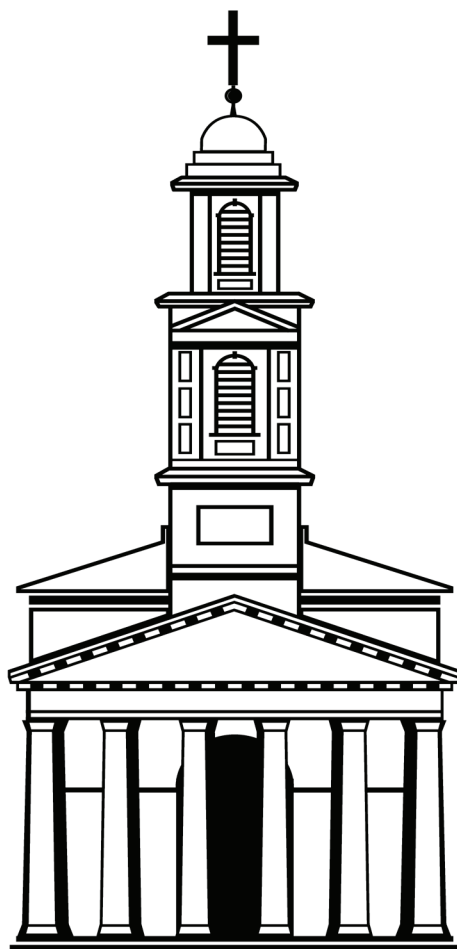


# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

December 17, 2023 ♦ 5:30 p.m.



## SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

*Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.*

*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

*Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.*

## VOLUNTARIES

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Es ist ein Rose entsprungen                                   | Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)           |
| Veni Emmanuel   | Margaret Varedell Sandresky (b. 1921) |
| Cradle Song   | Herbert Howells (1892–1983)           |
| Berceuse  | Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983)      |
| The Wexford Carol   | Trent Johnson (b. 1963)               |
| Canonic variations on <i>Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her</i> | J.S. Bach (1685–1750)                 |
|   | BWV 769                               |

*Please stand as you are able at the tolling of the bell.*

## HYMN 102

Once in royal David's city

*Stanza 1 sung by a chorister. Stanza 2 sung by the choir. Please join in singing stanzas 3–6.*

*Solo* Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

*Choir* He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

\*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

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

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 -

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. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: St. 1, 2, and 4–6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938).  
 Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929).

## BIDDING PRAYER

*Read by the Rev. William Morris.*

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Priest* Beloved in Christ, as we draw near to Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 this holy Child; 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 goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. 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 the 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:

*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.

*Priest* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

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

*Read by Gloria Burkhardt, Member of the Acolyte Corps, Youth Group, and Choristers.*

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." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

*Sung by the choristers.*

Adam lay ybounden,  
bounden in a bond:  
Four thousand winter  
thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
an apple that he took,  
as clerkès finden  
written in their book.

Nè had one apple taken been,  
the apple taken been,  
nè had never our lady  
abeen heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time  
that apple taken was.  
Therefore we moun singen,  
*Deo gracias!*

—Anonymous English carol, 15th century

## THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

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

*Read by Livy More, Representative of  
Communities in Schools, St. John's Outreach.*

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."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

Of a rose

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

*Sung by the combined choirs.*

Listen, lordynges, old and yonge,  
how this rose began to sprynge;  
such a rose to mine lykyng  
in all this world ne knowe I non. Alleluia.

The aungel came from hevene tour  
to greet Marye with gret honour,  
seyde she should bere the flour  
that should breke the findes bond. Alleluia.

The flower sprong in heye Bethlem,  
that is both bryht and schen:  
The rose is Mary hevene qwene,  
out of here the blösme sprong. Alleluia.

The ferste braunche is ful of myht,  
that sprong on Chrystemesse nyht,  
the sterre schon over Bethlem bryht  
that is bothe brod and long. Alleluia.

The secunde braunche sprong to helle,  
the fiendes power down to felle:  
Therein myht non soule dwelle;  
blyss'd be the time the rose sprong! Alleluia.

The thredde braunche is good and swote,  
it sprang to hevene crop and rote,  
there to dwell and ben our bote;  
ev'ry day it schewit in prystes hond. Alleluia.

—*Anonymous English carol, 14th century*

Listen sirs, both old and young,  
(as I tell of) how this rose began to spring (up),  
a rose I love better  
than any other in this world.

The angel (Gabriel) came from the tower of heaven  
to address Mary in an extremely respectful manner.  
He said she would bear the flower  
that would break the Devil's grip.

The flower, which is both brilliant and glittering  
sprang (up) in high Bethlehem.  
The rose is Mary, queen of heaven,  
(and) out of her bosom the blossom sprang.

The first branch, which is mighty,  
sprang (up) on Christmas night  
(when) a star, which was both broad and long  
shone brightly over Bethlehem.

The second branch sprang (down) to hell,  
to chop down the devil's power  
so that no soul might dwell therein (any longer).  
Blessed be the time that the rose sprang (down)!

The third branch is good and sweet,  
it sprang (up) to heaven both crop and root  
to live there and be our advocate,  
as is shown every day in (each) priest's hand.

—*Modern English translation by William Watson*

## THE THIRD LESSON

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

*Read by Desirée Stolar,*

*Board Member, Bishop Walker School.*

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* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 98

Unto us a boy is born!

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*



1 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -  
 2 Cra - dled in a stall was he with sleep - y cows and  
 3 He - rod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in  
 4 Now may Ma - ry's son, who came so long a - go to  
 \*5 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -



1 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the  
 2 ass - es; but the ve - ry beasts could see that  
 3 Jew - ry!" All the lit - tle boys he killed at  
 4 love us, lead us all with hearts a - flame un -  
 5 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the



1 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.  
 2 he all men sur - pass - - - es.  
 3 Beth - lehem in his fu - - - ry.  
 4 to the joys a - bove \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
 5 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.

Words: Latin carol, 15th cent., tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt. Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1943).

*Please be seated.*

## THE FOURTH LESSON

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9

*Read by Caleb Hays, Member of  
St. John's LGBTQ+ Fellowship.*

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. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

O Radix Jesse

Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)

*Sung by the St. John's Choir.*

*O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum,  
super quem continebunt reges os suum,  
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:  
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will keep silence,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

*—Anonymous, 8th century*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Luke 1:26-35; 38

*Read by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell,  
Associate for Children and Family Ministries.*

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." 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* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



## CAROL

Ave maris stella!

Kristina Arakelyan (b. 1994)

*Sung by the combined choirs.*

*Ave maris stella!* (Hail, star of the sea!)  
Blessed may she be, the star of the sea.  
*atque semper virgo.* (and ever virgin.)  
Pray thy Son for me that I may come to thee.  
Gabriel, that archangel messenger so fair,  
he greeted our Lady with an *ave* so clear.

*Dei mater alma*, (nurturing mother of God,) hail!  
Be thou, Mary, *felix coeli porta*, (happy gate of heaven,) full of God's grace, and queen of mercy!  
All that are to greet withouten deadly sin, forty days of pardon God granteth him.

—English, 15th century

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1; 3-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

*Read by the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, Associate for Parish Life.*

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 101

Away in a manger

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,





the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

*Please be seated.*

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

*Read by Lacy Broemel,*

*Head of the Refugee Committee, St. John's Outreach.*

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* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

See amid the winter's snow

John Goss (1800–1880)

*Sung by the combined choirs.*

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below;  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim: *Refrain*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep? *Refrain*

As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing “Peace on earth”  
told us of the Saviour's birth: *Refrain*

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this: *Refrain*

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee,  
in thy meek humility: *Refrain*

—Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

*Read by Clark Ervin, Senior Warden.*

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.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

In the bleak midwinter

arr. Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

*Sung by the St. John's Choir.*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

—*Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

## THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

*Read by the Rev. Robert W. Fisher, Rector.*

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* The Word of the Lord.


*People* Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 92

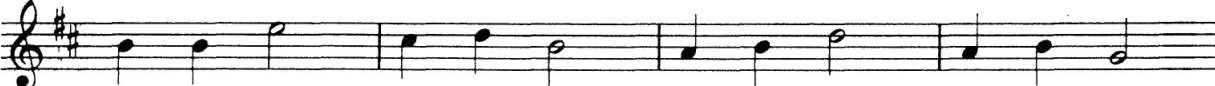
On this day earth shall ring

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

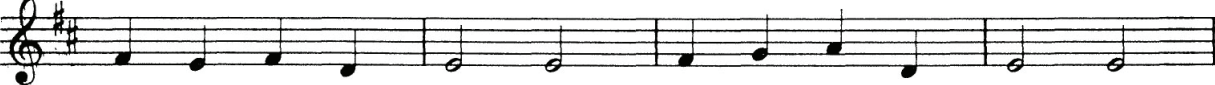
*Introduction*



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;

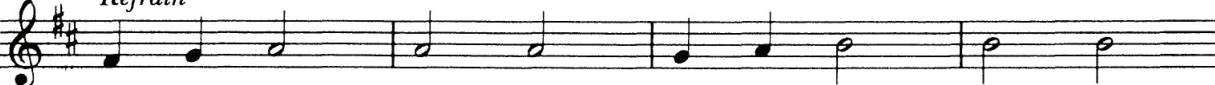


with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

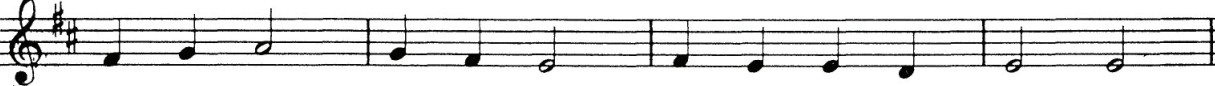


born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*



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



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

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894–1929). Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582.

## RECTOR'S WELCOME

*Please be seated.*

*An offering to support the ministry of St. John's Church will be collected during the singing of the anthem.  
You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate or using this QR code to pay electronically.  
A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I saw three ships

arr. Stuart Nicholson (b. 1975)

*Sung by the combined choirs.*

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?  
And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Savior Christ and his lady on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Our Savior Christ and his lady on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day in the morning.

*—Traditional English carol*

## COLLECT AND BLESSING

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we prepare to joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, with all those you love and all those for whom you pray, this coming Christmastide and always. **Amen.**



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 see; 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

*Priest* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Please remain standing as you are able until the procession exits.*

## VOLUNTARY

Magnificat

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

*All are invited to join in a festive reception in the Togo West Parlor following the service.*

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## THE ORIGIN OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The traditional service of Lessons and Carols was popularized in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, where it was first observed on Christmas Eve in 1918. The Armistice agreement that ended World War I had been signed just a month earlier, and England was gradually emerging from the trauma of that long conflict. The newly appointed Dean of King's College, Eric Milner-White, had served as an army chaplain during the war and sought to lift the spirits of his parishioners by offering a new worship service for Christmas Eve. He borrowed from an older service that had been created by Bishop E.W. Benson for Truro Cathedral in 1880. The service alternated scripture with carols and told the story of our salvation from mankind's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden to our redemption in the birth of Jesus Christ. The service was first broadcast from King's College on Christmas Eve in 1929 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel.

Sometime in the early 1930s, the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas radio programs, capturing the imagination of millions of listeners around the world. One correspondent reported listening to the service from a tent on the foothills of Mt. Everest; another, in the desert. Since the first broadcast, churches, cathedrals, and schools around the world have joined in the tradition of presenting this special liturgy during the Advent and Christmas seasons. So it is that we at St. John's join the throngs of pilgrims in their journey to the manger as we prepare again for the coming of the Messiah through the reading of scripture and the singing of carols.

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**THE GREENS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**ADVANCED CHORISTERS**

Gloria Burkhardt, Nathaniel Hersey, Ailene Neal, Beatrix Neal, and Eudora Neal

**PARISH CHOIR**

*\* Indicates staff singer*

Annette Anfinrud, Elissa Edwards,\* Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan,\*  
Nicole Vernat-Jonas,\* Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood,\* *Sopranos*

Alison Adkins, Barbara Burkhardt, Cay Buser, Nicole Feaster, Wendy J. Fibison,  
Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler,\* LaFleur Paysour, Charlotte Stewart,\*  
Barbara VanWoerkom,\* Louisa Waycott,\* and Margo Wiegenstein, *Altos*

Philip Anfinrud, Noah Bram,\* Craig Burkhardt, David Evans,\* Thomas Kingsley,  
Andrew Sauvageau,\* and William Watson,\* *Tenors*

Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean,\* Matthew Ford, Christopher Jones,\*  
Bill Josey, Nathan Lofton,\* and Tom Rust,\* *Basses*

**ASSISTING AT THE SERVICE TODAY**

Paul Barkett, *Crucifer*  
Susan Heil and Adelle Simmons, *Flower Guild*  
Ryan Wagner, *Livestream Operator*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.  
**If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,  
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.**

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## ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

*Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a “Welcome” card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. ♦ Free valet parking is available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for the valet sign at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza (16th Street) and H Street, NW. ♦ Follow us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare. See photos from St. John’s musical performances, special events, meetings, Sunday services, and more. Relive the moment or experience it for the first time through the touch of a button on your smartphone.*

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