



Artwork by Lindsay Smith

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

A parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania

December 10, 2023 - 4:00 p.m.

The service of Advent Lessons and Carols had its origins in a service held in the cathedral in Truro, England in 1880. It was designed to bring popular carols into a service based on the Scriptures, and as a particular diversion to the “excessive drinking in the pubs of Cornwall” during the festive season. The Festival of Lessons & Carols later became identified with King’s College Chapel, Cambridge University, beginning in 1918, during World War I, and has continued to be a part of the Christmas celebration. Lessons and music of Advent take us from darkness to light; from the ancient prophecies to the birth of the Savior...”a light to lighten the nations, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.” The hymns and carols, old and new, come from many nationalities and traditions, and included in this service are carols from England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, West Indies, and America.

Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent



Voluntary, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659
"Savior of the Nations, Come!"

Johann Sebastian Bach

MATIN RESPONSORY

Giovanni P. da Palestrina (16th century)

I look from afar:

*And lo, I see the pow'r of God coming,
and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.*

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep:

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come:

to reign over thy people Israel.

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.***

*I look from afar: And lo, I see the pow'r of God coming,
and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.*

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Hymn in Procession 65, Prepare the way, O Zion

Swedish, *Bereden väg for Herran*

Officiant reads the following

A 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 the 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 whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

The Officiant continues

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.**

First Lesson*(The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One)***Isaiah 11:1-9**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.***Carol, Creator of the stars of night***Malcolm Archer*

*Creator of the stars of night, thy peoples’ everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer, save us all and hear thy servants when they call.*

*Thou camest bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man yet all divine.*

*At thy great name, exalted, now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone.*

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one,
Laud, honour, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

Second Lesson*(The Prophet proclaiming good news to a people in exile)***Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will 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 like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, *Fum, Fum, Fum*

Catalan carol
Arranged by William Lewellyn

Ancient prophets first foretold him: Fum, fum, fum

John the Baptist did extol him: Fum, fum, fum.

Come join the marching throng of Christians, Come, and away to fill the churches

With your voices praising Heaven: Fum, fum, fum.

Hear the prophets tell his story: Fum, fum, fum.

Christ is coming in his glory: Fum, fum, fum.

Come join the marching throng of Christians, Come, and away to fill the churches

With your voices praising Heaven: Fum, fum, fum.

Hear you people round about me: Fum, fum, fum.

Come and have your sins forgiven: Fum, fum, Fum.

Come join the marching throng of Christians, Come, and away to fill the churches

With your voices praising Heaven: Fum, fum, fum.

Third Lesson

(The Prophet foretells the glory of the Kingdom of God)

Isaiah 35:1-6

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, *Lo, how a rose*

16th century, Michael Praetorius
Arranged by Gordon Turk

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,

when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,

With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior

When half-spent was the night.

*O Flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air!
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness ev'ry where;
true man, yet very God from sin and death now save us,
and share our ev'ry load.*

Fourth Lesson (*God promised a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us"*) **Isaiah 7:10-15**

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, Long ago prophets knew

Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
Arranged by Malcolm Archer

*Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new; Bear his People's burden, Freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when he comes, Who will make him welcome?*

*God in time, God in man, This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man, Born himself of woman, God divinely human. Ring bells...*

*Mary, hail! Though afraid, She believed, She obeyed.
In her womb God is laid; Till the time expected, Nurtured and protected, Ring bells...*

*Journey ends! Where afar Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar. Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes! We will make him welcome!*

Fifth Lesson (*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*) **Luke 1:26-38**

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: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary

*Italian carol
Arranged by Charles Wood*

*Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! For so, when he did meet thee
Spake mighty Gabriel, and thus we greet thee.
Come weal, come woe, our hymn shall never vary.
Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary!*

*Ave! Ave Maria! To gladden priest and people
The angelus shall ring from every steeple,
To sound his virgin birth. Alleluia!
Ave! Ave Maria! Ave! Ave Maria!*

*Archangels chant, 'Hosanna!' And, 'Holy! Holy! Holy!'
Before the Infant born of thee, thou lowly,
Aye- maiden child of Joachim and Anna.
Archangels chant Hosanna! Archangels chant Hosanna*

Carol Motet, Ave Maria

Gordon Turk (2023)

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, *The Virgin Mary had a baby boy*

West Indian Spiritual

Dum, dum, dum, dum, dum, dum...

*The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they said that his name was Jesus.*

[Refrain:]

*He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!*

He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.

*The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
and proclaim him the Saviour Jesus.*

[Refrain]

*The wise men saw when the baby born,
the wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.*

[Refrain]

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Reader: *Here ends the lesson.*

Carol, E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might sav-ed be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!*

(Words adapted from Revelation 22, by Ruth Manz)

All shall keep silence for a time

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Vesper Responsory, *Tomorrow, go ye forth*

*Giovanni da Palestrina
Arranged by Phillip Ledger*

*Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed;
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord,
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.*

The Lord's Prayer

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, forever and for ever. **Amen**

*A moment of silence is kept.
Then the choir sings:*

V: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord;

R: *In the midst of thy temple.*

Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

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

Hymn in Procession, 57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Helmsley

Participating in today's Service

The Reverend Lucy Anne Dure, *Officiant*

St Mary's Parish Choir & Friends

Dr. Gordon Turk, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Richard Zuch, *Director of Music. Church of the Good Samaritan, Assisting Conductor*

Our Mission: God is calling the people of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, Pennsylvania to follow Jesus' teaching to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Therefore we love and embrace each other, friend and stranger alike in worship, service and prayer as we seek to live in and share God's Word.

– Adopted by the St. Mary's Vestry, May 201



CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S

Sunday, December 24

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 7:45 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10 am

Family Christmas Eve Service with Pageant at 4

Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass with Choir and Orchestra at 10 pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day at 10:00 am

How to give to St. Mary's

Simply point your camera at the QR code below and follow the instructions, or, to make a donation via text, simply text worship 1887, to the number 73256.



St. Mary's Church Parish Staff

Parish Staff

The Reverend Lucy Ann Dure, *Interim Rector* (lucyann@stmaryswayne.org)

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