

A FESTIVAL OF NINE Lessons & Carols



Many years ago, Archbishop Edward Benson, when at Truro Cathedral in England, instituted this beautiful service based on the medieval vigil service. It was modified at a later date by the Very Reverend E.M. Milner-White, at that time Dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. Since then, it has been sung annually in King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve. The service consists of a procession, bidding prayer with the Lord's Prayer, Invitatory, nine lessons with the appropriate carols and hymns, closing prayer, a benediction and hymn.

***DECEMBER 1, 2021
6:00 PM***

***HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
222 N. BONITA AVE.
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
850-747-4000
INFO@HOLY-NATIVITY.ORG
WWW.HOLY-NATIVITY.ORG***

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Welcome

The Rev. Steve Bates, Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Priest Associate

Christmas Fantasy

By Sigurd M. Ogaard
Yasya Brown, Violin – John Durgan, Organ

Once In Royal David's City"

Hymn 102

Leigh Gladden & The Choral, verse 1
Congregational Hymn starting with verse 2

**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.**

**For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew, he was tempted,
scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our
sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him;
but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to
faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.**

The Service of Light

All stand.

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:14-16)

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

V. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

R. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

V. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

R. O Lord God of hosts.

V. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord:
R. And grant us your salvation.

THE NINE LESSONS

The Bidding

The congregation, standing, shall be bidden to Prayer in these words:

Dear People of God: In this 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 sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

The Invitatory **"The Song of Mary, The Magnificat"** *Chanted by Sharon Carroll & The Choral*

LESSON I

Reader: The Rev. Tom Weller

"God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head."
Genesis 3:8-15

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.

“What Child Is This”

Katie Ott, Harp

“Christmas Star”

By John Williams

Chancel Choir

LESSON II

Reader: Holly Melzer

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

Genesis 22:15-18

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.

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Hymn 89

Congregational Hymn

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending
near the earth to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to
men, from heaven’s all gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay to
hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still
their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly
plains they tidings which they bring; O hush the noise and Babel sounds the
blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the
heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and warring human
kind hears not the tidings which they bring; O hush the noise and cease your
strife and hear the angels sing!**

LESSON III

Reader: Rebekah Leebrick

“Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.”

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

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.

“Away in a Manger”
Hymn 101
Congregational Hymn

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on
the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love
thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee
there.**

LESSON IV
Readers: Lisa McLendon

“The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.”
Isaiah 11:1-4a and 6-9

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. 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.

“O Holy Night”

*by Adam Adolphe
Sharon Carroll*

LESSON V

Reader: Joanne MacPhee

*“The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.”
Luke 1:26 –35 and 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. 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.

“I Saw Three Ships”

*By Becky & Ernie Brock
Katie Ott, Harp & Stephanie Riegle, Flute*

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Hymn 93

Congregational Hymn

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; ye, who
sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

***Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn
King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night, God with
you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light: *(Refrain)***

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar: seek the great
Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *(Refrain)***

LESSON VI

Reader: Scott Clemons

“St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus”

Luke 2:1-7

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.

“Gesù Bambino”
Leigh Gladden

LESSON VII

Reader: Joe Ciccarelli

“The shepherds go to the manger.”

Luke 2:8-20

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. 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.

“While Sheperds Watched Their Flocks By Night”

Hymn 94

Congregational Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; “Glad tidings of great joy I bring to yu and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line the Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign.

LESSON VIII

Reader: Joyce Dannecker

“The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.”

Matthew 2:1-11

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.

“The First Nowell”
Hymn 109
Congregational Hymn

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.**

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)*

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star where ever it went. *(Refrain)*

“We Three Kings”
By Becky & Ernie Brock
Katie Ott, Harp & Stephanie Riegler, Flute

LESSON IX

Reader: The Rev. Steve Bates

(THE CONGREGATION SHALL STAND FOR THE NINTH LESSON)

"St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation."

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.

"Joy to the World"

arr. by Amanda Singer

The Children's Choir

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn 83

Congregational Hymn

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; (*Refrain*)**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; (*Refrain*)**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw
nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; (*Refrain*)**

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with
love and awe; who would not love thee; loving us so dearly? (*Refrain*)**

The Closing Collect and Blessing of Lessons and Carols

Closing Hymn
“Silent Night”
Hymn 111
Congregational Hymn

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!

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.

Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude
“Reverie”
By Jame Blanchette
John Durgan, Organ

Musicians

Katie Ott ...Harp
Stephanie Riegler...Flute
Yasya Brown...Violin
Sharon Carol...Soprano
Leigh Gladden...Soprano
The Holy Nativity Choir
The Childrens Choir
John Durgan...Organist

Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2021

4:30 pm
Christmas Eve Eucharist with the
Children’s Christmas Pageant

10:30 pm
Christmas Eve Eucharist