

# A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2012

10:30 AM



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Andrew A. Dunks, Rector

Kathleen Gambill Hennessee, Music Director

Betty A. Pace, Secretary

A Service of Lessons and Carols  
along with the  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
and  
Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, but also in some Roman Catholic parishes, Lutheran parishes, and Presbyterian institutions. Moreover, numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

This year our service will be combined with the traditional children's Christmas Pageant, with the Sunday School students presenting tableaux representing the parts of the Christmas story.

This will be followed by a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All baptized Christians are welcome at our altar.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Processional**

**O come, O come Emmanuel**

**Hymnal page 56**

*The People remain standing while the Rector reads*

**The Bidding Prayer**

In the name of Christ and his Church I bid you welcome to St. Bartholomew's Church today.

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence 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.

Therefore 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. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

But first we pray:

For all Christian people, that by this festival they may be renewed to fulfil Christ's work in this world; and especially for Shannon, Ted and Susan, our Bishops, and the clergy and people of this diocese;

For the world, which is already Christ's, that those who bear responsibility for its future, in politics, in industry, in commerce, and in education and communication, may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

For all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful, and the bereaved.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May 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: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

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."

The Word of the LORD  
*Thanks be to God*

God is alive at Bethlehem!

St. Bart's Choir

Gods of the heathen, bronze and stone,  
Logs without hearing sight or tone,  
Like them be they who worship them!  
God is alive in Bethlehem.

Fraught were the gifts with inward sense,  
As to the Priest right frankincense,  
Gold to the King and chosen myrrh  
fit for the victim's sepulchre.

Adam and Eve, how low they fell,  
leaving us bond to ugly hell.  
Christ our young brother saves is all,  
stooping to lift us from the fall.

Jesus so loves us, here he came  
heedless of want and woe and shame.  
Pray He receive us when we come  
into His rich and royal home!

Cradled on stable stall He lay  
born of a maiden pure as day.  
No one but she true homage paid,  
None was like her for lowlihead.

See how the manger calls each one  
to claim the Christ as God's own Son.  
For us he conquered death and hell.  
For Him we sing our glad noel!

Angels began His birth to sing  
Sending the shepherds worshiping.  
Orient Kings besought his face,  
Bringing Him gifts of stately grace.

Traditional Basque Christmas Carol  
Arranged by Ken Berg  
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## Second 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 forever.

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.

The Word of the LORD

*Thanks be to God*

Hymnal page 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

## Third Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 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.

The Word of the LORD

*Thanks be to God*

*Please join the choir in singing this setting of The Magnificat, the Song of Mary*

# Canticle of the Turning

## Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

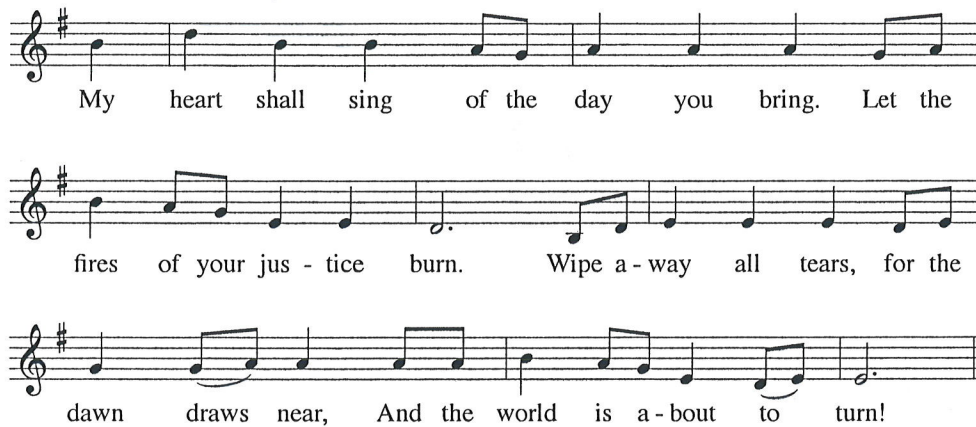


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



## Canticle of the Turning

### Refrain



Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952  
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular with refrain; Irish melody; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952  
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## Fourth Lesson: 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.

### The Word of the LORD

*Thanks be to God*

*The congregation is asked to sing the first verse of Silent Night along with the choir.*

### Night of Silence

Cold are the people, winter of life,  
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,  
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,  
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,  
Fire of hope is our only warmth,  
Weary its flame will be dying soon.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings  
from afar,  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,  
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,  
Star unknowing of night and day,  
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,  
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,  
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,  
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,  
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,  
Soon will we know of the morning.

Text: Daniel Kantor, b. 1960  
Tune: Daniel Kantor, b. 1960  
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### **Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:8-14**

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!"

The Word of the LORD

*Thanks be to God*

**Hymnal page 96**

**Angels we have heard on high**

### **Sixth Lesson: 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."

The Word of the LORD

*Thanks be to God*

**Hymnal page 128**

**We three kings of Orient are**

### **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Announcements**

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*



Italian Piper's Carol

While Shepherds watched their flocks  
Upon a winter night  
They heard the sound of music  
throughout the starry night

O friends and neighbors all,  
come out and follow them;  
The star shines bright to show  
us the way to Bethlehem.

*Refrain*

Angels singing, bells are ringing  
saints proclaiming songs of love  
Today Emmanuel comes! Venite adoremus,  
O come and worship him

Come now to Bethlehem  
with shepherds near and far  
To find the manger lowly  
led by the shining star.

Text: 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian  
English paraphrase: Richard Proulx  
Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century, *Lauda Spirituale* from Abruzzi  
Arranged by Richard Proulx  
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The Holy Communion

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer D

*The People remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
|                  | The Lord be with you.                      |
| <i>People</i>    | And also with you.                         |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Lift up your hearts.                       |
| <i>People</i>    | We lift them to the Lord.                  |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.    |
| <i>People</i>    | It is right to give him thanks and praise. |

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.



We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember (NN. and) all who minister to your Church.

Remember all your people and all who seek your truth.

Remember \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with The Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Bartholomew and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **AMEN**

**THE GREAT AMEN**

**Wonder, Love and Praise (green) Hymnal page 863**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Hymnal page S161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

*or with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

**During Communion**

*Anthem by St. Bart's Combined Choirs*

Wonder, Love and Praise page 725

Holy night, blessed night

*All please sing*

**Hymnal page 112**

**In the bleak midwinter**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Priest, may bless the people.*

**Recessional**

**Joy to the world!**

**Hymnal page 100**

*The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!  
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!