



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. We're delighted you have joined us for this Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation as we welcome the birth of the Christ Child. Please join us for a reception in Morrison Hall following this service.

**Hymns not included in this booklet are found in the red hymnal. Hymns are sung standing.**

PRELUDE

CHORAL-IMPROVISATION ON 'IN DULCI JUBILO,' OP. 75, NO. 2

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

HYMN 102

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Irby

Verse 1 sung by Becca Leacock

Verse 2 sung by the choir

Verses 3-6 sung by all

1. 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.

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 and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. And through all his won - drous child - hood He would hon - our and o - bey,  
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us he grew,  
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re - deem - ing love,  
6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the ox - en stand - ing by,

Love and watch the low - ly maid - en, In whose gen - tle arms he lay:  
He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our Lord in heaven a - bove;  
We shall see him; but in hea - ven, Set at God's right hand on high;

Chris - tian child - ren all must be Mild, o - be - dient, good as he.  
And he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
And he leads his child - ren on To the place where he is gone.  
When like stars his child - ren crowned All in white shall wait a - round.

## BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

*Officiant:* 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.**

## HYMN 91

BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT

*Ermuntre dich*

*The congregation sits.*

**FIRST LESSON** *read by a Chorister, Matsy Leacock*

GENESIS 3:8–15; 17–19

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

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*Text: Anonymous, 18th century*

*Soloist: Anna Squire*

**SECOND LESSON** *read by a Choral Scholar, Julia Branton*

GENESIS 22:15-18

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

**HYMN**

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

*God Rest You Merry*

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let no - thing you dis - may, For  
2. From God our heav' - nly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came, And  
3. The shep - herds at those ti - dings Re - joi - ced much in mind, And  
4. But when to Beth - le - hem they came, Where - at this in - fant lay, They  
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - ses, All you with - in this place, And

Je - sus Christ our Sa - viour Was born up - on this day, To save us all from  
un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same, How that in Beth - le -  
left their flocks a - feed - ing, In tem - pest, storm and wind, And went to Beth - le -  
found him in a man - ger, Where ox - en feed on hay, His moth - er Ma - ry  
with true love and bro - ther - hood Each o - ther now em - brace; This ho - ly tide of

Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray:  
hem was born The Son of God by name:  
hem straight-way This bless - ed babe to find: O — tid - ings of com - fort and  
kneel - ling, Un - to the Lord did pray:  
Christ - mas All o - thers doth de - face:



**THIRD LESSON** read by a member of the choir, Dr. Ben Utter  
*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

ISAIAH 9:2; 6-7

**ANTHEM**

**A SPOTLESS ROSE**

*Herbert Howells*

*A spotless Rose is blowing  
 Sprung from a tender root,  
 Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
 Of Jesse promised fruit;  
 Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
 Amid the cold, cold winter  
 And in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing,  
 Whereof Isaiah said,  
 Is from its sweet root springing  
 In Mary, purest Maid;  
 For through our God's great love and might  
 The blessed babe she bare us  
 In a cold, cold winter's night.*

*Text: 14th century*

*Soloist: Grady McCoy*

**FOURTH LESSON** read by the Director of Music, Dr. Colin MacKnight  
*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

ISAIAH 11:1-3A; 4A; 6-9

**HYMN 81**

**LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING**

*Es ist ein Ros*

**FIFTH LESSON** read by a member of the Cathedral, Valerie Smith  
*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

LUKE 1:26-35; 38

**HYMN 265**

**THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME**

*Gabriel's Message*

*The people sit.*

*Hodie Christus natus est:  
Hodie Salvator apparuit:  
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
laetantur Archangeli  
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Alleluia.*

Today Christ is born:  
Today the Savior appeared:  
Today on Earth the Angels sing,  
Archangels rejoice:  
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Alleluia.

*Text: Antiphon to the Magnificat for Vespers on Christmas Day*

**SIXTH LESSON** *read by the Chancellor of the Cathedral, Clarke Tucker*  
*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

LUKE 2:1; 3-7

## ANTHEM

## GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*arr. Ragnar Bohlin*

*Refrain:  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

*Text: Anonymous African-American Spiritual*

**SEVENTH LESSON** *read by the Senior Warden of the Cathedral, Melonese Clarke*  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

LUKE 2:8-16

## ANTHEM

## THE SHEPHERD'S CAROL

*Bob Chilcott*

*We stood on the hills, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Watching the frosted meadows  
That winter had won.*

*The evening was calm, Lady,  
The air so still,  
Silence more lovely than music  
Folded the hill.*

*There was a star, Lady,  
Shone in the night,  
Larger than Venus it was  
And bright, so bright.*

*Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady,  
It seemed to us then  
Telling of God being born  
In the world of men.*

*And so we have come, Lady,  
Our day's work done,  
Our love, our hopes, ourselves,  
We give to your son.*

*Text by Clive Sansom*

**ANTHEM**

**STAR CAROL**

*John Rutter*

*Sung by the Trinity Choristers*

*Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,  
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his  
cradle,  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
See his star shining bright  
In the sky this Christmas night!  
Follow me joyfully;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,  
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,  
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"  
See his star...*

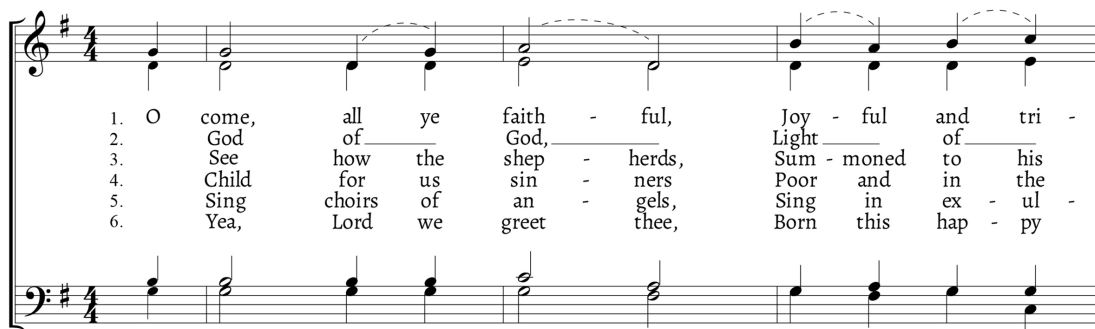
*See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;  
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore  
him,  
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.  
See his star...  
Let us all pay our homage at the manger,  
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
See his star...*

*Text by John Rutter*

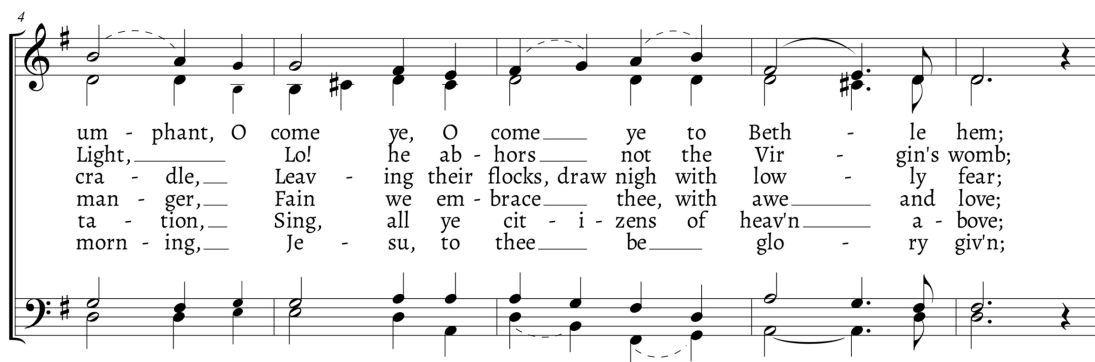
*All stand.*

**NINTH LESSON** read by the Dean and Rector, The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux  
*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

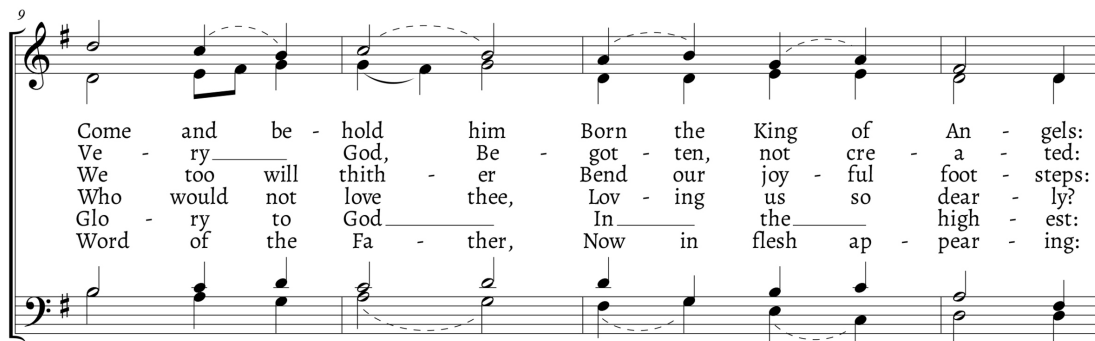
JOHN 1:1-14



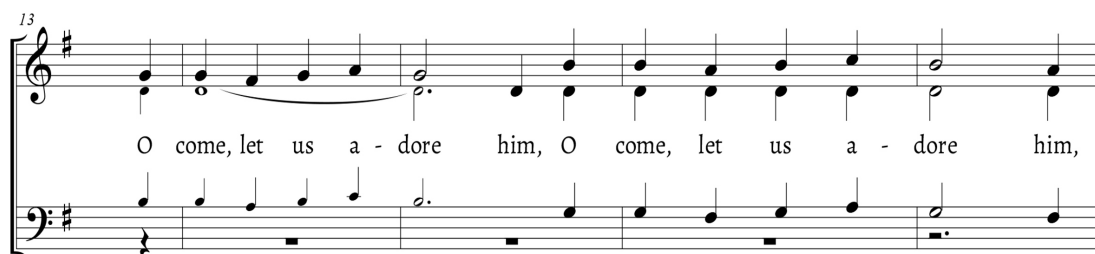
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri -  
 2. God of God, Light of  
 3. See how the shep - herds, Sum - moned to his  
 4. Child for us sin - ners Poor and in the  
 5. Sing choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul -  
 6. Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born this hap - py



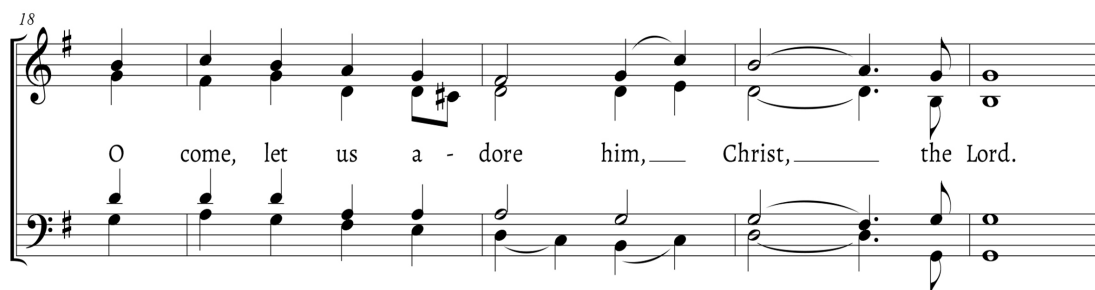
um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le hem;  
 Light, Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 cra - dle, Leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear;  
 man - ger, Fain we em - brace thee, with awe and love;  
 ta - tion, Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;  
 morn - ing, Je - su, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him Born the King of An - gels:  
 Ve - ry God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:  
 We too will thith - er Bend our joy - ful foot - steps:  
 Who would not love thee, Lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
 Glo - ry to the God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN

### HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

*Mendelssohn*

1. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing — Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, — Christ, the e - ver - last - ing Lord,  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! — Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

5  
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled:  
Late in time be - hold him come — Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb:  
Light and life to all he brings, — Risen with heal - ing in his wings:

9  
Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, — Join the tri - umph of the skies, —  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, — Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! —  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that man no more may die, —

13  
With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem.  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, — our Em - ma - nu - el.  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to — give them se - cond birth.

17  
Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing Glo - ry — to the new - born King.

**Officiant**

*The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux*

**Director of Music**

*Dr. Colin MacKnight*

**Associate Director of Music**

*Jeremiah Mead*

**Notes on the Notes:**

David Willcocks was music director of the chapel at King's College, Cambridge, the church which popularized this exact service of nine lessons and carols. He is best known for his wonderful arrangements of Christmas carols, including tonight's final verses of "Once in royal David's city," "O come, all ye faithful," and "Hark! the herald angels sing."

Christmas Lessons and Carols traditionally begins with the hymn "Once in royal David's city," sung to the tune Irby. The custom is for a child to sing verse 1 as a solo, the choir to sing verse 2, and the congregation and organ to join in for verses three through six.

This evening's choral music includes an eclectic mix of composers and sources: a late Renaissance/early Baroque Dutch motet, an arrangement of the quintessential Christmas African-American spiritual, and four carols by 20th-century English composers.

*Please join us for a reception in Morrison Hall following the service.*

# CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Check the weekly emails for streaming schedule.

## Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve**

**Holy Eucharist** 10:30 a.m. (choral)

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

**Christmas Eve Family Eucharist** 4 p.m. (sung by Trinity Choristers)

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

**Musical Prelude** 10:30 p.m.

**Holy Eucharist** 11 p.m. (choral)

Preacher and Celebrant: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

## Dec. 25

**Christmas Day**

**Offices Closed**

**Holy Eucharist** 10:30 a.m. (with hymns)

Preacher: The Rev. Thomas Alexander

## Dec. 26

**Thursday after Christmas**

**Offices Closed**

## Dec. 29

**The Holy Name**

**Holy Eucharist** 10:30 a.m. (with hymns)

Preacher: The Rev. Rob Leacock

**No Choral Evensong**

## Jan. 5

**Holy Eucharist** 8 a.m. (spoken)

**Holy Eucharist** 10:30 a.m. (choral)\*

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

**Twelfth Night Lessons & Carols** 4 p.m.

Burning of the Greens and S'mores follows

## Jan. 6

**Feast of the Epiphany** (choral) 7 p.m.



