

# A Festival of Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 4:00 pm.

St. John's Parish Choir and Cantate Children's and Youth Choir

St. John's Episcopal Church

Lynchburg, Virginia

# A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! During the season of Advent, this traditional service of Lessons and Carols prepares us for the miracle of the Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas. The congregation joins the choirs in singing the hymns. Please stand for the hymns and prayers, and sit for the carols and lessons. At the conclusion of each lesson, the reader will say "The Word of the Lord." Please respond by saying "Thanks be to God."

Prelude: A Christmas Interlude for Oboe and Organ

Peter Bloesch

Lo how a Rose e'er blooming  
The Sussex Carol

*The people stand for the hymn and prayers.*

Processional Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

Irby

*Solo: Helen Thompson*

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.

*Choirs*

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.

*Congregation and Choirs*

3 And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4 For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

5 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high,  
When like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## A BIDDING PRAYER

*Officiant:* Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves 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 look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs 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 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 forevermore.

And now to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*Officiant and people:* 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 to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

*The people sit.*

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring -  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;  
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men, now and forever more, Amen.'

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FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

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

Carol: The Lord at first did Adam make

Traditional English, arr. June Nixon

The Lord at first did Adam make out of the dust and clay,  
And in his nostrils breathed life e'en as the scriptures say.  
And then in Eden's paradise he placed him to dwell,  
That he within it should remain, to dress and keep it well:

*Refrain:* Now let all Christians all begin an holy life to live,  
And to rejoice and merry be, for this is Christmas Eve.

And thus within the garden he was set therein to stay;  
And in commandment unto him these words the Lord did say:  
"The fruit which in the garden grows to thee shall be for meat,  
Except the tree in the midst thereof, of which thou shall not eat."  
*Refrain*

"For in the day thou shalt it touch or dost to it come nigh,  
If so thou do but eat thereof then thou shalt surely die."  
*Refrain*

But Adam he did take no heed unto that only thing,  
But did transgress God's holy law, and so was wrapt in sin:  
*Refrain*

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, which he for mankind bore;  
His mercy soon he did extend, lost man for to restore;  
And therefore to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall,  
He said his own dear Son should be the Saviour of us all:  
*Refrain*

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

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

Carol: In dulci jubilo

Matthew Culleton (b. 1976)

*In dulci jubilo (in sweet joy), let us our homage show,  
our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio, (in a manger)  
And like a bright star shineth matris in gremio, (in mother's lap)  
Alpha es et O (Omega). (beginning and ending)*

*O Jesu parvule! (O infant Jesus) I yearn for thee always!  
Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime! (O best of boys)  
My prayer let it reach thee, Princeps gloriae; (Prince of glory)  
Trahe me post te. (Draw me after you to heaven.)*

*O Patris caritas! (O love of the Father!) O Nati lenitas! (O love of the Son!)  
Deeply were we stained, per nostra crimina; (through our sins)  
But thou hast for us gained coelorum gaudia! (the joys of heaven)  
O that we were there!*

*Ubi sunt gaudia, (where are joys) where if they be not there?  
There are angels singing nova cantica! (new songs)  
And there the bells are ringing in Regis curia. (in the King's courts)  
O that we were there!*

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THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

Carol: See, amid the winter's snow

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years!  
Refrain  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, Redemption's happy dawn!  
Singing 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*

*Sacred Infant, all-divine, what a tender love was thine  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!  
Teach, oh teach us, holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee in thy sweet humility.  
Refrain*

Hymn 56, stanzas 1-4: O come, O come, Emmanuel

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Carol: There is no rose

Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space. *Res miranda. (Wonderful thing.)*

The angels sungen the shepherds too, *Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Glory be to God on high.)*

Now leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. *Transeamus. (Let us go.)*

The angels sungen the shepherds too. *Transeamus.*

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

Anonymous 15th century text

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Hymn 81, stanzas 1-2: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

*Es ist ein Ros*

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Carol: The angel Gabriel

Michael Higgins

*Andrea Dukes, soprano*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted show, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary.' Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,' most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. 'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said.  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.' Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

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Hymn 78, stanzas 1-2: O little town of Bethlehem

*Forest Green*

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

Carol: Christmas Welcome

James Whitbourn (b. 1963)

Welcome be thou, Heaven King, welcome, born in one morning,  
welcome, to thee now'll we sing, welcome, Yole, forever and ay!  
Welcome Yole in good array, in worship of this holy day.

Welcome be thou, Mary mild, welcome be thou and the Child,

welcome, fro the Fiend thou us shield, welcome, Yole, forever and ay!  
Welcome Yole in good array, in worship of this holy day.

Welcome be ye, Stephen and John, welcome, children ev'ry one,  
welcome, Thomas martyre, ev'ry one, welcome Yole, forever and ay!  
Welcome Yole in good array, in worship of this holy day.

Welcome be thou, good New Year, welcome the twelve day efere,  
welcome be ye all that been here, welcome, Yole, forever and ay!  
Welcome Yole in good array, in worship of this holy day.  
For Yolis love now makis merry.

Text: John the Blind Audelay (15th cent.)  
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SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16  
*The angels appear to the shepherds.*

Carol: The Quempas Carol Based on three 14th century German carols, arr. David Cherwien

He whom shepherds once came praising, awed by heavenly light ablazing  
Cheered by angel news amazing: "King of glory, Christ is born!"  
The glorious angels came today, aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,  
To shepherds who by moon's bright ray did in the field o'er sheep their silent vigil keep.  
"Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heaven resounding,  
For you, for you and all the world abounding."

*Refrain*

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;  
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

Sing with Mary, virgin mother: praise her Son, our newborn brother;  
Angel ranks, lead one another, hailing him in holy joy!  
Then sang the angels this refrain:

"To God on high alone give praise and glory,  
And peace on earth with gladness heed this story  
And rejoice in his goodwill." The Savior came in meekness  
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

*Refrain*

To our king, God ever reigning, yet of Mary manhood gaining,  
Heavenly gifts for us obtaining, raise your hymns of homage high!  
The wond'ring shepherds said: "Behold! Let us now go with all good speed to Bethlehem  
To see this thing the Lord has told; the sheep are safe; he will indeed take care of them.  
There they found the wonder child, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,  
Yet all the world with his free grace supplying.

*Refrain*

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EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11  
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

Michael-John Trotta (b. 1978)

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.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
when he comes to reign.

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.  
what I can I give him, give my heart.

Heaven and earth shall flee away,  
when he comes to reign.  
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.  
What I can I give him, give my heart.

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*The people stand for the ninth lesson.*

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14  
*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

*The people sit.*

Carol: The Word Made Flesh

Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

*Jennifer Coffey, soprano*

I sing the birth was born tonight,  
The author both of life and light;  
The angels so did sound it,  
And like the ravished shepherds said,  
Who saw the light, and were afraid,  
Yet searched and true they found it.

The Son of God, eternal King,  
That did us all salvation bring,  
And freed our soul from danger,  
He whom the whole world could not take,

The Word, which heaven and earth did make,  
Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so,  
The son's obedience knew no No;  
Both wills were in one stature.  
And as that wisdom had decreed,  
The Word was now made flesh indeed,  
And took on him our nature.

What comfort by him we do win,  
Who made himself the price of sin,  
To make us heirs of glory!  
To see this babe, all innocence,  
A martyr born in our defence,  
Can man forget the story?

Poem by Ben Johnson (1572-1637)  
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*The people stand.*

#### THE COLLECT

*Officiant:* O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### THE BLESSING

*Officiant:* May the God who finds room to be born in Bethlehem's stable find room to grow in our hearts and lives. *Amen.*  
May the God who took on flesh that we might take on eternal life grant us the vision to see Christ enfleshed in the world around us. *Amen.*  
May the God of angels and shepherds and wise men and maidens reveal to us God's love for us just as we are. *Amen.*  
And may the blessing of the eternal Majesty, the incarnate Word, and the abiding Spirit, be with you now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Hymn 87: Hark! the herald angels sing

*Mendelssohn*

*The people sit for the postlude.*

Postlude: Toccata-Gigue on the Sussex Carol

George Baker (b. 1948)

*Your generous offering as you leave the church today  
will help us to defray the expenses of this service and future concerts.*

## PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Chris Roussell, Rector of St. John's Church, Officiant  
Peggy Haas Howell, Organist and Choirmaster  
Randall Speer, Conductor  
William Parrish, Jr., Oboe  
Elizabeth Wilkinson, Piano  
St. John's Parish Choir  
Cantate Children's and Youth Choir

## READERS

Readers for today's Festival of Lessons and Carols are community leaders. We thank them for their participation, and we recognize and support the organizations they serve.

First Lesson: Macie Ratliff, Cantate Chorister

Second Lesson: Ted Delaney, Director of the Lynchburg City Museum System

Third Lesson: Shawne Farmer, Executive Director, Interfaith Outreach

Fourth Lesson: Beau Wright, Vice-Mayor, City of Lynchburg

Fifth Lesson: Perry Payne Millner, Senior Mitigation Specialist, Virginia Department of Health,  
supporting churches and non-profits in their COVID-19 response

Sixth Lesson: The Rev. Adam White, Chaplain, Virginia Episcopal School

Seventh Lesson: William Bodine, President, Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation

Eighth Lesson: The Rev. Ben Cowgill, Deacon and Curate of St. John's Church

Ninth Lesson: The Rev. Chris Roussell, Rector of St. John's Church

## ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.: Festival Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist

## CANTATE CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIR

CANTATE CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIR is an organization dedicated to bringing classical choral music to the youth of Central Virginia ([Cantatechoir.net](http://Cantatechoir.net)). This is Cantate's 28th Season. The choir rehearses at St. John's Church, with Peggy Haas Howell as the music director. The group is open to children and youth from second grade through high school (boys with unchanged voices). Cantate meets on Monday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. in St. John's choir room. In February, Cantate's older and more experienced singers have been invited to be part of a Children's Festival Chorus at the Southern Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Raleigh, N.C. To arrange an audition for the spring semester, call Peggy Howell (434-473-7526) or email [Howellph@Cantatechoir.net](mailto:Howellph@Cantatechoir.net).

## ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHOIR

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHOIR is a mixed choir that sings every Sunday and for special services in addition to presenting occasional concerts. In October of 2016, they presented a choral concert conducted by Martin Neary, former organist at Westminster Abbey. A recording of that concert is available in the Commons for \$10. They were in residence at Gloucester Cathedral, England, for a week in 2018, where they sang six Evensongs, a Eucharist, and a wedding. They will travel to Durham Cathedral to sing for a week in July of 2023.

### CONCERTS CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN'S ORGAN

Sunday, February 27, 4:00 p.m. Nathan Laube, Organ Recital

Nathan Laube is a leading performer and pedagogue. He is on the organ faculty at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, Germany, where he succeeded his mentor, Ludgar Lohmann, at his alma mater. His extensive international recital career takes him to major concert venues and festivals around the world. Known for his brilliant playing, gracious demeanor, and creative programming, Mr. Laube has earned high praise from critics and peers alike.

Sunday, March 27, 4:00 p.m. Peggy Haas Howell, Organ Recital

Peggy Haas Howell is St. John's Organist and Choirmaster as well as the conductor of Cantate Children's and Youth Choir. She has won many organ-playing competitions, including first prize in the National Competition of the American Guild of Organists and a shared top prize in St. Alban's Organ Playing Competition in England. Ms. Howell is well-known as a recital organist in the United States and Europe and has been called a "play-anything virtuoso" by the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Her program will include works by Sweelinck, Bach, Kerll, Paine, Locklair, and Vierne.

Sunday, May 22, 4:00 p.m. *Angel voices ever singing*, Festive Choral and Organ Concert

St. John's Parish Choir and Cantate Children's and Youth Choir will be accompanied by organ and percussion instruments to perform festive and exciting works by Howells, Ayres, Rutter, and Chilcott.

### CANTATE CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIR

Sunday, May 15, 4:00 p.m. *One Voice*, Cantate's Annual Spring Concert

Cantate's concert will include a wide variety of interesting and challenging music from many different traditions, including such works as "Soriba, a Zimbabwe Greeting", "Morning Song – Cherokee "Amazing Grace", "Tutu Maramba, a Brazilian lullaby" and "One Voice".

*If you would like to be on our email list to be informed about future concerts, please send your email address to [Peggy@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:Peggy@stjohnslynchburg.org).*

## ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHOIR

Peggy Haas Howell, Director

Barbara Betenbaugh  
Sara Carr  
Brandon Coffey  
Jennifer Coffey  
Barbara Daniszewski  
Andrea Dukes  
John East  
Bryan Geiser  
Bill Hetzel  
Janet Hickman  
Carol Hinkle  
Leah Hinkle-Thompson  
John Hoffman  
Rena Hoffman  
Margaret Howard  
James Hubbard  
Tom Kane  
Peter Manion  
Susan Manion  
Ansley Melton  
Kit Nichols  
Reg Puckett  
Jeff Scruggs  
Randall Speer  
Randall Watts  
Marjorie Wheeler-Barclay  
Elizabeth Wilkinson  
Chris Young

## CANTATE CHOIR

Peggy Haas Howell, Director  
Elizabeth Wilkinson, Accompanist  
and Assistant Director

Ella Bolton  
Emma Bolton  
Mimi Boyers  
Barkley Cleland  
Vail East  
Emma Harris  
Lydia Harris  
Renee Judd  
Kathleen King  
Mona Louer  
Kingsley McBride  
Wanjiku Muhoro  
Breanna Muller  
Isabelle Phillips  
Paisley Pugh  
Macie Ratliff  
Sadie Ratliff  
Caroline Rosser  
Helen Thompson  
Addie Whittier

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