

A Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols



All Saints' Episcopal Church
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
December 17, 2023 4:00 PM



Organ Preludes



From God the Father Virgin Born (*Deus Tuorum Militum*)
(*Antiphoner*) Grenoble, 1753; setting by Benjamin M. Culli (b. 1975)

Still, Still, Still *Traditional Austrian Carol; setting by Franklin Ritter (1934-2015)*

What Child is This *Greensleeves setting by Dorothy Wells (1926-2008)*

Hymnos I. Star (based on *Star in the East*) *Ronald Perera (1941-2023)*

Opening Hymn

Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City*
(omit * verses)

The Blue Hymnal 102
(All standing)

A 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.



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.

Hymn: *Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light*

The Blue Hymnal 91

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Reader: Anna Condor

Carol: *Adam lay ybounden*

Words: Anonymous

Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

1. Adam lay ybounden
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

3. Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been.
Ne had never our lady
A been Heavenè queen.

2. And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkès finden
Written in their book.

4. Blessed be the time
The apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!



Carol: *People, look East*

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Reader: Kiley Williams

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Music: Besançon carol,

Arr: Mark Nelson (1957-)

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
*People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
*People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

2. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
*People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.*

4. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
*People, look East and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way*

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Reader: Laura Marshall, Director of Religious Education

Carol: *Prepare the way*

Words: Dala melody

Music/Arr: Margareta Jalkeus (1966-)

1. Prepare the way, O Zion;
ye awful deeps rise high.
Sink low, ye lofty mountains,
the Lord is drawing nigh.
The righteous King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story.
*O blest is he that came in God the Father's
name.*

2. O Zion, He approaches,
your Lord and King for aye.
Strew palms where He advances,
spread garments in his way.
God's promise faileth never,
Hosanna sound forever,
*O blest is He that came in God the Father's
name.*

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:2, 3, 4, 6-9

Reader: Rose Felzani, Acolyte Head

Carol: *The Lamb*

Words: William Blake ((1757-1827)

Music: John Tavener (1944-2013)

1. Little Lamb who made thee
dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life and bid thee feed.
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the vales rejoice!
*Little Lamb who made thee
dost thou know who made thee.*

2. Little Lamb I'll tell thee;
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
*Little Lamb, God bless thee.
Little Lamb, God bless thee*

Hymn: *O Day of Peace*

The Blue Hymnal 597



The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Noah Van Dam, Lector

Carol: *The White Dove*

Words: German, translated/Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907)

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

1. A dove as white as winter,
from heaven came to earth,
And greeted there a maiden,
of humble birth.
She bowed her head
and listened to his words.
That she, above all others,
was favored by the Lord.
Kyrie eleison.

2. The heavenly gates will open,
Thou shalt have a son;
Emmanuel the most high,
the King, the Chosen One.
For know, a blessed mother
shalt thou be.
All coming generations
will laud and honor thee.
Kyrie eleison.



3. Our hope and expectation
O Jesus, appear.
Arise, thou sun, so longed for
above this darkened sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
Lord to see the day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with thee.
Kyrie eleison.

Handbells: *Messiah: For unto Us a Child is Born*

George F. Handel/Dan R. Edwards

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23

Reader: Debbie Sullivan

Carols: *The Virgin Mary had a baby boy*

Words and music: West Indies Carol
Arr: Brian Trant

1. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they
say that his name was Jesus.
*He come from the glory, He come from the
glorious kingdom.*
*Oh, Yes! Believer. He come from the glory, He
come from the glorious kingdom.*

2. The angels sang when the baby was born
and proclaim Him the Saviour Jesus.
*He come from the glory, He come from the
glorious kingdom.*
*Oh, Yes! Believer. He come from the glory, He
come from the glorious kingdom.*

3. The wise men saw where the baby was born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.
*Oh, Yes! Believer. He come from the glory, He come from the glorious
kingdom.*

Soloist
René Minalga-Rheault

Magnificat: Et exultavit

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. (And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior).

Hymn: *What Child is this*

The Blue Hymnal 115

The Seventh lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Reader: Lynne McSheehy, Litanist

Carol: *Christmas Night*

Words and music: 16th century carol
Arr/John Rutter (1945-)

1. Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light.
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas night.
Round the stable where a virgin and mother mild
watches over Jesus Christ, the holy child.

Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.
'Glory to God in highest heav'n' their joyful strain:
Peace on earth, goodwill to men, the glad refrain.

2. Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed;
seraphim in glory hover round his head.
Wise men, guided by the leading of a star,
bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

4. Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day.
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

3. Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:



5. Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!
Born to take our guilt away.
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav'n above:
Infant, born of God the Father's love.

The Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:11-11

Reader: Danielle Wigmore, Senior Warden

Carol: *Three great kings*

Words and music: after Bizet's *Farandole*
Arr: Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

1. Three great kings I met at early morn,
with all their retinue were slowly marching.
Three great kings I met at early morn,
were on their way to meet the newly born.

2. With gifts of gold brought from far away,
and valiant warriors to guard the royal treasure;
with gifts of gold brought from far away,
their shields all shining in their bright array.

The Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

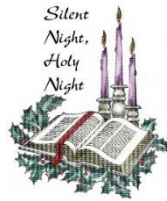
Reader: The Reverend Sean Maloney

The congregation is invited to light the candles.

Carol: *Night of Silence*

Words and Music: Dan Kantor (1967-)
Stille Nacht by Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

1. 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.



3. 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.

2. 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.

4. 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,

**The congregation is invited to join in 'Silent Night' when the choir repeats this verse.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful...*

(omit *verses)

The Blue Hymnal 83

All may be seated for the postlude.

Organ Postlude: *In dulci jubilo*

BMV 729 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



STATEMENT OF INCLUSION FOR ALL SAINTS' PARISH

We promise to "seek and to serve Christ in all persons, ...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

All Saints' Episcopal Church welcomes all people who seek the love of God without regard to ability, age, color, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation.

All Saints' Episcopal Church

The Reverend Sean Maloney , Rector
Maggie Marshall, Minister of Music
Debbie Sullivan, Handbell Choir Director
Cyndi Bliss, Assisting Organist
Connie Pawelczak, Accompanist
Laura Marshall, Director of Religious Ed
Rohini Pola, Office
Margie Dissinger, Accountant
Mirna Cunha, Sexton

Service List

Advent IV

5:00 PM Saturday 23 2023, Chapel

Christmas Eve

10:00 AM Sunday 24 2023

4:00 PM Pageant Sunday 24 2023

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Sunday 24 2023

Christmas Day

10:00 AM Christmas Day Service Monday 25 2023, Chapel

Sunday Services

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

