



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

*Where all are welcome at the Lord's table*

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## The Nativity of Our Lord | December 24, 2020

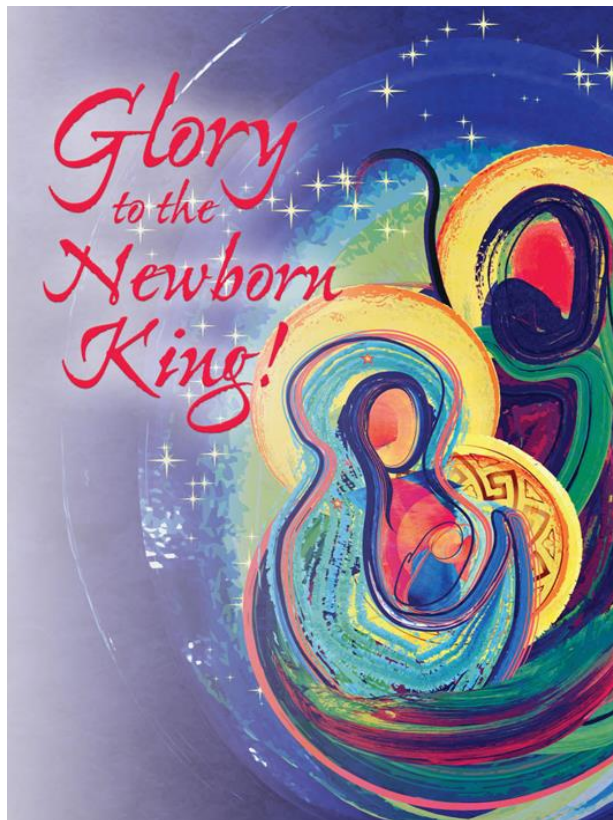
### A Service of Lessons and Carols

The people's responses are in bold.

#### Prelude

*It came upon a midnight clear*  
Hyunjung Choi, harp

Richard Storrs Willis  
arranged by Carlos Salzedo



Hymn 102 stanza 1 sung by St. Cecilia Choir. All join in singing stanzas 2, 4-6  
(omitting stanza 3)

*Irby*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. ;

St. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) © 1957 Novello and Company Limited.

Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876): harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

## **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 the 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 community.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and the 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 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:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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.**

**Invitatory Anthem**

*People, look East!*

Besancon Carol  
arranged by Craig Phillips

**First Lesson**

*Christ's birth and kingdom  
are foretold by the prophet Isaiah*

Isaiah 9:2-7

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*He is born the divine Christ-child*  
from December 16, 2018, concert arranged by Alice Parker

French Carol

**Second Lesson**

*God promises that a child shall be conceived  
who will be known as "God with us"*

Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and

shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Sussex Carol*  
Birgitta Whited, soloist

English Carol

**Third Lesson**

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary  
that she will bear the Son of the Most High*

Luke 1:26-56

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*O holy night*  
Arielle Rogers, soloist

Adolphe Adam

**Fourth Lesson**

*Jesus is born at Bethlehem  
and is worshiped by angels and shepherds*

Luke 2:1-20

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.

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.

*Reader*    The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn 83 stanzas 1-3 sung by all

*Adeste fideles*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

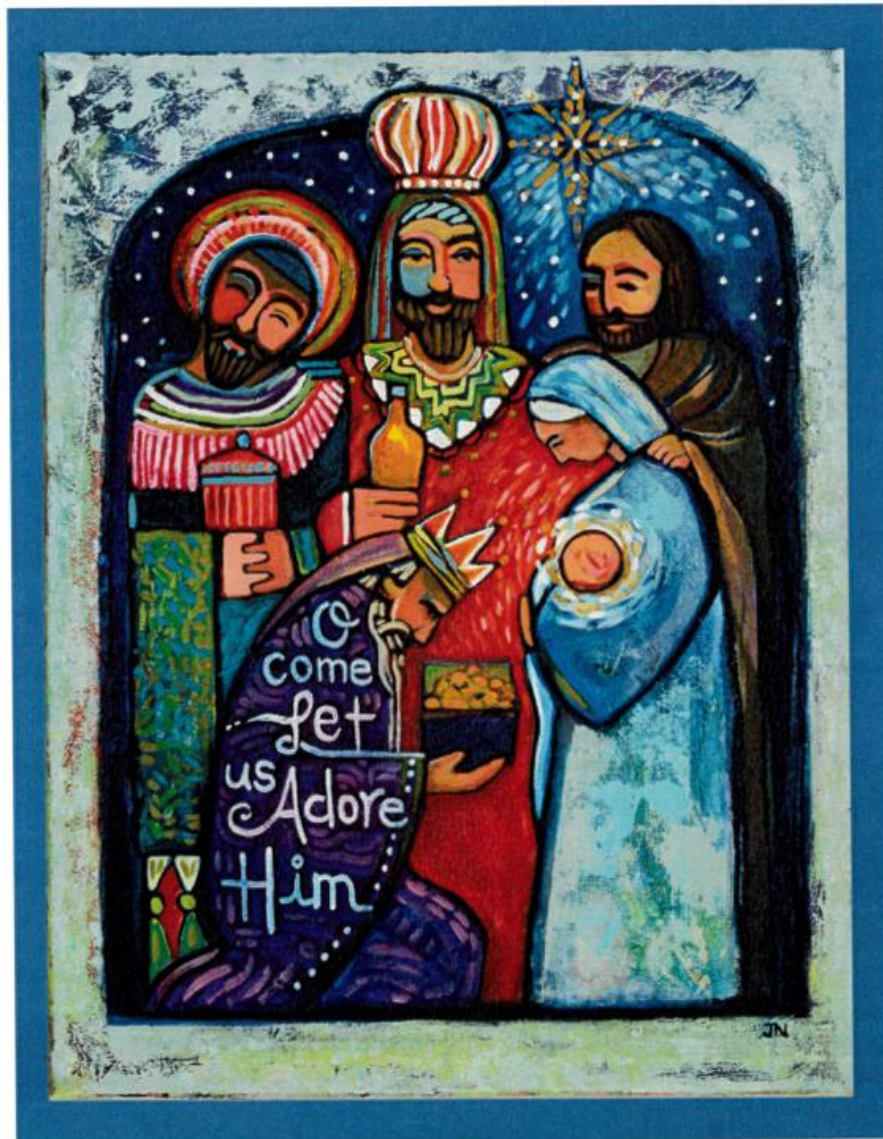
1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

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

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





Sermon

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 111 *sung by all*

*Stille Nacht*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

## The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven and earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you this night and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Hymn 87 *sung by all*

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

**Postlude**

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come*  
Bruce Dearnaley, tower bells

George Frideric Handel

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**Participants**

Preacher/Officiant	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector
Minister of Music	Rodney Ayers
Hymn Quintet	Sarah Curtis, Brad Logan, Arielle Rogers, Rob Walsh, Birgitta Whited
Hymn Quartet	Deborah Collins, Bruce Dearnaley, Laura Sullivan, Michael Sullivan
Choir	Members of the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs
Soloists	Arielle Rogers, Birgitta Whited
Tower Bells	Bruce Dearnaley
Harp	Hyunjung Choi
Lesson 1	Sally House
Lesson 2	Laura Sullivan
Lesson 3	Ben Lovejoy
Lesson 4	The Rev. Tanya Watt



## 2020 Christmas Poinsettia Memorials



In loving memory of...

Virginia Armbruster  
Col. Leroy M. Barber, Jr.  
Harriet Barber-Hemingway  
Marx B. Barton  
Richard B. Barton  
John & Phyllis Berger  
Barbara Cameron  
Robert S. Carlson  
“Dear Friends”  
Russell & Vivian Carlson  
“Mother” Castiglioni  
Tribbie Chafee  
Berton C. Clarke  
Bill & Lillian Clifton  
James Leroy & Effie Clifton  
Marvin Lowell & Bertha Iola  
Clifton  
Sammie Weldon Clifton  
Helen Cocchiola  
Frank & Diane Cole  
Thomas H. Collins  
Elizabeth B. Dearnaley  
James J. Dearnaley  
Martin J. Denny-Brown  
John Eddy  
Douglas Entwistle  
Cheryl Feeney  
Sandra Fennessey  
Edward A. Gabarra, Jr.  
Edward A. & Lavinia J.  
Gabarra  
Guilio & Atalina Gabarra  
John David Gabarra  
Jose and Nazare Gomes  
John & Lavinia Jacques  
Capt. Robert & Hazel Kelly  
James Kollett

Orrin & Edith Landes  
Elizabeth Marot  
James Watts, III  
Maureen McGarry  
Elizabeth Jean Morgan  
Louise Leland Morgan  
Gardiner Palmer  
Spec<sup>5</sup> Ronald P. Paschall  
Louise & Joseph Psencik  
Olive & Joseph Rezendes  
Wes & Joan Rich  
“Vinnie”  
James Watts, III  
George B. Williams  
Mary Williams  
Buckley & Doris Wright  
Jason Ellis Young



## 2020 Music Memorials

In honor of and loving memory of...



Frances P. Baker  
Leroy M. Barber, Sr.  
The Rev. Leslie D. & M. Eileen  
Batchelor  
Nancy W. Blydenburgh  
Carol & Robert T. Brockway  
Martin I. Denny-Brown  
Amy & Willis Carter  
Thomas J. Chisholm  
Betty Dedon  
Mary Barber Hanson  
Jane Margaret Hopkins  
Karen House  
Capt. Carl I. and Nancy I. Hoyer  
Carl Frederic Hoyer  
Aina Johnson  
Albin "Bunny" Johnson  
Capt. Robert & Hazel Kelly  
Susan Little  
John T. Maccini  
S. Isabel Maccini  
Maureen Ann Morgan  
Ron Patrick  
Genevieve Schweizer  
Evelyn M. Souza  
Louis J. Souza  
Deceased Members of the  
Stenberg Family  
Grace & Ralph Stevens  
Constant W. Sweck  
Barbara E. Sullivan  
John Laurence Sullivan  
James W. Tingley, Jr.  
Muncie A. Tingley  
O. Edwin "Poppy" Tongberg  
Sigrid Hoyer Tongberg

Edna & Harold Turner  
Sheila & Russell Turner  
Carolyn M. Waite  
Marian J. Waite  
William A. Waite, Jr.  
James Watts, III  
Gertrude & Shelley Whitlock  
John & Dorothy Wilmot  
Walter Wilson  
Buckley & Doris Wright