



A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 1, 2024, AT 5 PM
& LIVESTREAMED ONLINE

Prelude

Sonata seconda, Op. 1 Tomasino Albinoni (1671–1751)
Grave, Allegro, Largo, Vivace

The Albinoni Trio
Karen Abrams, oboe ~ Peter Clamp, violin ~ Martin Mangold, cello
with Diane Heath, continuo

Introit

Conditor alme siderum Sarum Plainsong, Mode IV
The Genesis Ringers

Please stand as you are able at the conclusion of the introit.

An Advent Responsory John Brooks (b. 1955)
The St. Columba Singers ~ David Timpane, soloist

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Text: Ezekiel 38:9, Matthew 25:6, Luke 7:19, I Samuel 19:17, Psalm 49:2, Psalm 80:1

Hymn 56 verses 1, 2, 4, & 6 O come, O come, Emmanuel *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

The Bidding Prayer

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 God 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 the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in Jesus' 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.

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 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.**

The congregation is seated for the reading of the lessons.

The First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE CRAFTY than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Adam lay ybounden
The St. Columba Singers

Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our lady abeen heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias!

Text: Anonymous, 15th century

The Second Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius (1611–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt.

The Third Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.

THE DAYS ARE SURELY COMING, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Prepare to receive him
The Gallery Choir

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
arr. Randolph Currie (b. 1943)

Prepare to receive him, the promised Messiah, the loving and caring, the Savior of all!

Text: Randolph Currie

The Fourth Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

THE WILDERNESS AND THE DRY LAND shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Music	Savior of the nations, come The St. Columba Ringers	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i> arr. Cathy Moglebust (b. 1958)
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Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn 75	There's a voice in the wilderness crying	<i>Ascension</i>
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There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!
O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our words decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;
but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan (1876–1961), alt.

The Fifth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

BUT YOU, O BETHLEHEM of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Advent Candlelight Carol *Burgundian Carol*
The Children's, Gallery, and Celtic Choirs arr. Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)
and Jean Anne Shafferman (b. 1953)

Advent candle burning bright through the night,
shine your light of hope telling people ev'rywhere:
Soon the Savior comes, soon he will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of hope.

Advent candle burning bright through the night,
shine your light of peace telling people ev'rywhere:
Soon the Savior comes, soon he will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of peace.

Advent candle burning bright through the night,
shine your light of love telling people ev'rywhere:
Soon the Savior comes, soon he will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of love.

Advent candle burning bright through the night,
shine your light of joy telling people ev'rywhere:
Soon the Savior comes, soon he will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of joy.

Text: Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

The Sixth Lesson Luke 1:26-38

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

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
The St. Columba Singers

Es ist ein Ros

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Melody from Alte Catholische Geirtliche Kirchengesng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

Text: German, 15th century, tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845–1925)

The Seventh Lesson John 1:1-16

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler (1806–1876); alt.

Greeting *seated* The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin

At the Offertory

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC> to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text SCEC and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions. Tonight's offering will support our music program.

Carol

People, look East
The Choirs

Traditional Besançon Carol
arr. Henry Lebedinsky

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.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength, the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.
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.
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.
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.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Please stand as you are able.

Collects

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming, grant that we, who with joy receive your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of your vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us and go forth from this place to transform the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!
Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Postlude

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

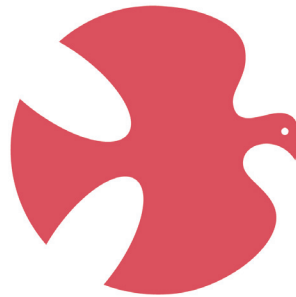
Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

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Land Acknowledgement

We meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging.

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