

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692



A SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 27, 2020

- Solo* 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.
- All* 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.
- All* 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.
- All* 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.
- All* 5. 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.

BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant 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 the 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:

LORD'S PRAYER

All 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.

People Amen.

INVITATORY CAROL

Infant holy, infant lowly
(virtually recorded December 2020)

Traditional Polish Carol

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.*

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:1-13

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."

CAROL

I wonder as I wander
(virtually recorded December 2020)

arr. Mark Schweizer

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, And the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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.
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.

CAROL

Ding dong! merrily on high
(virtually recorded by affiliate members of the Royal School of Church Music in America, December 2020)

French Carol arr. Charles Wood

*Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.
Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme you evetime song, ye singers.*

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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." 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.

HYMN

Angels from the realms of glory
(archival recording from January 5, 2019)

REGENT SQUARE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: <i>come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.</i></p> | <p>2. Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>3. Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>4. Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: <i>Refrain</i></p> |

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw

the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HYMN

We three Kings of Orient are
(archival recording from January 5, 2019)

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

1. We three Kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
Refrain
3. Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worship him God Most High.
Refrain
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain
5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
Heaven sings Alleluia:
Alleluia the earth replies.
Refrain

FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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.

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful
(archival recording from December 24, 2019)

ADESTE FIDELES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, Born the King of Angels: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</p> | <p>2. God of God, light of light eternal, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Only-begotten, Son of the Father: Refrain</p> |
| <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God, glory in the highest: Refrain</p> | <p>4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain</p> |

CAROL

In the bleak midwinter
(archival recording from December 16, 2020)

Gustav Holst

*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.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
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; yet what I can I give him-give my heart.*

CLOSING PRAYER

- V. Let us bless the living God: He was born of the Virgin Mary,
R. **Revealed in his glory,**
V. Worshipped by angels,
R. **Proclaimed among the nations,**
V. Believed in throughout the world,
R. **Exalted to the highest heavens.**
- V. The Lord be with you.
R. **And also with you.**
V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. **Thanks be to God.**

BLESSING

Officiant May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing
(archival recording from December 24, 2019)

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Refrain

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Refrain

DISMISSAL

Officiant Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of the newborn King.
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

'Pastorale' from Christmas Concerto
(archival recording from December 24, 2019)

Arcangelo Corelli

To be broadcast on our website and our Facebook public page

Evening Service for New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31
9:00 p.m.



ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve 1918 in Cambridge, England. It was planned by The Rev. Eric Milner-White, who at age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College, Cambridge. His service as an army chaplain during World War I convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. He would later go on to devise the College's Advent Carol Service in 1934 and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.

A revision of the order of the Lessons and Carols service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city.' In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced by successive Directors of Music. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged, moving deliberately through the season of Advent into Christmas. The original service was adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed that was Truro Cathedral on Christmas Eve 1880.

In the early 1930s, the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there were and still are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the UK. In recent years, King's College broadcasts a recording of the service on Christmas Day, and a shorter service is filmed separately for television. Recordings have also served to spread its fame. In these and other ways, the service has become public property.

-adapted from a King's College Chapel Lessons and Carols leaflet

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to offer this treasured liturgy for the parish and wider community in person, but are delighted to offer it virtually, incorporating archival recordings of carols for choir and congregation and new prerecorded lessons and music especially for this occasion. A special addition is the carol "Ding dong! merrily on high," virtually recorded by member choristers of the Royal School of Church Music in America, of which St. Margaret's is an affiliate.

Jim Douglas

PARTICIPANTS

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Patti Sachs, *Associate Rector*

MUSIC

Jim Douglas, *Director of Music & Organist*

Members of the Chancel Choir, Motet Ensemble and Youth Chorale

The Royal School of Church Music in America National Virtual Choir

The Annapolis Bay Strings

Mel Kessler, *trumpet*

Merideth Hite Estevez, *oboe*

LECTORS (CHILDREN OF ADULT CHORISTERS)

Joseph Jackson

Connor Feldmann

Zacca Jackson

Grace Feldmann

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*

St. Margaret's Church

STAFF

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*
peter@st-margarets.org

The Rev. Patti Sachs, *Associate Rector*
patti@st-margarets.org

Elizabeth Radley, *Director of Operations*
elizabeth@st-margarets.org

Jim Douglas, *Director of Music*
music@st-margarets.org

Laura Tayman, *Director of Communications*
laura@st-margarets.org

Jeff Conover, *Youth Ministries Leader*
jeff@st-margarets.org

Teresa McCorkle, *Bookkeeper*
office@st-margarets.org

Jim Bowersox, *Facilities Operations Assistant*

Tricia McVeigh, *Day School Director*
tricia@st-margarets.org

Judy Hall, *Churchyard Administrator*
churchyard@st-margarets.org

Christine Feldmann, *Grants Administrator*
missions@st-margarets.org

