



Saint James  
Anglican Church  
Traditional faith in a contemporary world.



**Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols  
Sunday December 18, 2022**

## Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

*Ave Maria (solo by Shelly Franklin)*

By Franz Schubert

*His Name Is Wonderful (solo by Shelly Franklin)*

CCLI Song # 7139855 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash CCLI License # 3087110

*All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words.*

*People* Surely the Lord is coming soon,  
Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

*The Celebrant says*

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:5-6*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; 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 goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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 unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

## A Reading from Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 *Creation of Man & Woman*

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

*At the end of the reading*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful; Hymn # 83*

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.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only begotten Son of the Father;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Wade, John Francis / Oakeley, Frederick Public Domain

## A Reading from Genesis 3:1-15 *Adam & Eve Rebel*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And 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 midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely 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 themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, 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?" And 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 of 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 of 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 deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field on 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 her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                    The Word of the Lord.  
                                  Thanks be to God.

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; Hymn # 89*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring human kind hears not the tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Sears, Edmund / Willis, Richard Storrs Public Domain



## A Reading from Isaiah 40:1-11 *God comforts his people*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                    The Word of the Lord.  
                                  Thanks be to God.

*Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence; Hymn # 324*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Public Domain

**A Reading from Jeremiah 31:31-34** *A new covenant is promised*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                      The Word of the Lord.  
                                      Thanks be to God.

*Joy to the World; Hymn # 100*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of His love.

Watts, Isaac / Handel, George Frederick Public Domain

**A Reading from Isaiah 35:1-10** *The prophet proclaims a Savior*

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.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                      The Word of the Lord.  
                                      **Thanks be to God.**

*O come, O come Emmanuel; Hymn # 56*

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

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy might power to save, and give them victory o'er the  
grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Helmore, Thomas Public Domain

**A Reading from Isaiah 7:10-15** *God promises a child shall be conceived*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "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." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                    The Word of the Lord.  
                                  **Thanks be to God.**

***Angels We Have Heard On High; Hymn # 96***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing through the night;  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo

Chadwick, James / Barnes, Edward Shippen Public Domain

## A Reading from Micah 5:1-4 *A King born in Bethlehem*

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                          Thanks be to God.

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem; Hymn # 78*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sins and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Brooks, Phillip / Williams, Ralph Vaughn Public Domain



## A Reading from Isaiah 11:1-9 *The Spirit will rest upon the Holy One*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                          Thanks be to God.

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing; Hymn # 87*

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 the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

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 the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

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.  
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness! hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

Wordsworth, Christoher / Shaw, Geoffrey Turton Public Domain

## A Reading from Luke 1:26-56 *The Angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And 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 mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent

away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

*At the end of the reading*

*People*                   The Word of the Lord.  
                                  Thanks be to God.

*O Holy Night (solo by Shelly Franklin)*

*Celebrant*

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us, and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*Instrumental Postlude*

Please join us for refreshments after the service next door in Duncan Hall.