

Tonight's service is being streamed live. The recording will be available at <u>youtube.com/parkstreetchurch</u>

Historical Note

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first sung in this wooden building (pictured right) which served as the first Truro Cathedral; it is said that the Rt. Reverend Edward White Benson, who originated the service in 1880, chose the time of 10 pm on Christmas Eve in order to "get the men out of the pubs early so they would not be drunk for the midnight service." In 1918, Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, adapted the service for use in the chapel at King's. The service has remained virtually unchanged since that time, and has spread through all



the world. In each service, the hymns and carols vary (though it is traditional to begin with *Once in Royal David's City*), but the readings—in the majestic beauty of the King James translation—remain constant. The sound of the same words, year after year, points to the unchanging significance and reality of the gospel story. This worship service is both solemn and joyful in tone, inhabiting the grandeur of the story—from Fall to Incarnation—and rejoicing in the love of God and the redemption that is ours through Christ.

Instruction

Please enter the sanctuary in silence, preparing yourself to join with this assembly in the worship of Almighty God.

Please do not applaud during this service. The music of the service, whether performed by the choir and orchestra or sung by the whole congregation, is presented as a corporate offering to God—a sacrifice of praise—in which we all take part.

The service proceeds without announcement. Please follow the order of service, reading loudly the bold text and singing hymns. The congregation stands (and sits) when indicated, immediately following the conclusion of the previous reading or carol, not waiting for verbal instruction.

Women and all children sing hymn stanzas marked trebles; men sing stanzas marked men; all sing stanzas that are not otherwise labeled.

Silence cell phones and other electronic devices. If it is necessary to leave or reenter during the service, please do so only during a hymn if possible.

Understanding terms: Carol is a generic term for a religious folk song (not all Christmas songs are carols, and not all carols are about Christmas) but in the tradition of this service, the choral numbers are called *carols* and the congregational ones *hymns*.

S. Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) arr. Sydney Baynes (1879-1938)

 \P The People stand immediately at the conclusion of the prelude.

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

stanza 1: Solo

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, Iesus Christ her little child.

stanza 2: Choir

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 the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

stanzas 3-6: All



Words: sts. 1-2 & 4-6, 1848 | Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) st. 3, 1982 | James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: 1849 | Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Words of st. 3 © James Waring McCrady, 1982. Reprinted under One License No A-721487

BIDDING PRAYER

Minister: Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; and for brotherhood and goodwill amongst all men, and especially in this city of Boston.

(silent prayer)

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 cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

(silent prayer)

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

(silent prayer)

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 coming day's bread;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into trial, but deliver us from the Evil One.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for 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.

All: Amen.

¶ The People sit.

INVITATORY CAROL

Sing Noël

Come spread the word, a Savor is born. *Sing Noël*. Bring him gifts of frankincense and myrrh, and gold. We've heard tell a Savior born in Bethlehem. Come and bring a gift to Christ the Lord in Bethlehem. He has come on earth this day to save mankind.

Sing Noël.

Words and Music: 1975 | Brent Pierce (b. 1940)

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3

READER: A BOY

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And he said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O Antiphons: VI O REX GENTIUM

O Rex Gentium: O King of the nations, come. O King of the nations, and their desire; The Cornerstone, he who makest both one:† Come, come and save mankind, whom thou didst fashion from clay.

†uniting Jew and Gentile

Words: 4th century

Music: 2022, Carol Barnett (b. 1949)

The music ministry commissioned Carol Barnett (sister of Park Street's own Elaine Phillips) to compose new settings of the seven *O Antiphons*, in honor of Michael Brescia's forty-five years of service to the choir.

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CONGREGATION

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

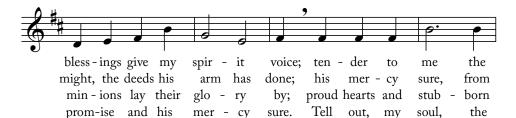
And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, "By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Thanks be to God.

¶ The People stand.



- 1. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord. Un num-bered
- 2. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his name! Make known his
- 3. Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might! Powers and do -
- 4. Tell out, my soul, the glo ries of his Word! Firm is his





prom-ise of his word; in God my Sav-ior shall my heart re-joice. age to age the same; his ho-ly name, the Lord, the might-y One. wills are put to flight, the hun-gry fed, the hum-ble lift-ed high. great-ness of the Lord to chil-dren's chil-dren and for ev-er-more!

Words: paraphrase of *Magnificat* (Luke 1) 1961 | Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926–2024) Music: 1919 | Walter Greatorex (1877–1949)

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Mary's *Magnificat* (of which this hymn is a paraphrase) calls continually on Old Testament promises, and it ends by naming God's pledge to Abraham. The *Magnificat* is an affirmation that everything promised, even from the time of Abraham, is coming to pass.

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE VAN BAAY HOUSE FOR INT'L STUDENT MINISTRY

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

¶ The People stand.





Words: 1641 | Johann Rist (1607-1667) trans. ca. 1885 | John Troutbeck (1832-1899) Music: melody 1641 | Johann Shop (1590-1664) arr. 1734 in *Christmas Oratorio* | J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

¶ The People sit.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ORCHESTRA

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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 of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice'den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

¶ The People stand.



 O Jesus, Virgin-born, to thee eternal praise and glory be, whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Words: *Veni, Redemptor Gentium*, c. 397 | St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397), trans. J. M. Neale (1818–1866) Music: 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621), arr. George Woodward (1848–1934)

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1

READER: A YOUNG GIRL, ABOUT MARY'S AGE

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.



CAROL

There is No Rose, from Magnificat

There is no rose of such virtue[†] as is the rose that bare Jesu;

Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space; *Alleluia*.

By that rose we may well see there is one God in persons three, *Alleluia*.

The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in Excelsis.

Alleluia.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum {My soul doth magnify the Lord}

†virtue: 15th-century meanings include the strength to give birth and the life-giving power of a flower or root. The rose is a traditional symbol for the blessed virgin Mary.

Words: c. 1420 | Music: 1997 | Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CHOIR

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

¶ The People stand.

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter (next page)

Cranham



Words: Christina Rosetti (1830–1894) Music: written for the 1906 English Hymnal | Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

¶ The People sit.

READER: THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glory to God in the highest.

Music: Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

CAROL

My Lord Has Come

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,

his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable.

My Lord has come.

Words & Music: 2010 | Will Todd (b. 1970)

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that

is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Star Carol

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night! Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer: Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping, Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor come to worship and adore him, offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary!

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Words & Music: 1972 | John Rutter (b. 1945)
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CAROL at the OFFERING

What Shall We Give?

What shall we give to the Babe in the manger? What shall we offer the Child in the stall? Incense and spices and gold we've aplenty, are these the gifts for the King of us all?

Tam, patan, tam, patan, tam, patan tan-tam.

What shall we give to the boy in the temple? What shall we offer the man by sea?

Palms at his feet and hosannas uprising, are these for him who will carry the tree?

What shall we give to the Lamb who was offered, rising the third day and shedding his love?

Tears for his mercy we'll weep at the manger; bathing the infant come down from above.

Words: Catalonian folk carol; trans. David Warner Music: Traditional Catalonian folk carol; arr. 2001 | Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

¶ The People stand.

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1

READER: THE SENIOR MINISTER

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. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

men:

5.



choir: 1. Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-gan to be,

- 2. At his word they were cre-at-ed; he com-mand-ed; it was done:
- trebles: 3. O that birth for ev er bless èd, when the vir gin, full of grac
 - 4. O ye heights of heav'n a dore him; an gel hosts, his prais es sing;



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, heav'n and earth and depths of o - cean by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, pow'rs, dom - in - ions, bow be - fore him, he the source, the in their three-fold bare the sav - ior and ex - tol our



end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been, or - der one; all that grows be - neath the shin - ing of our race; and the Babe, the world's Re-deem - er, God and King! Let no tongue on earth be si - - lent,



let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

and that fu-ture years shall see, of the light of moon and sun, first re-vealed his sac-red face, eve-ry voice in con-cert ring,

ev - er-more and ev - er - more! ev - er-more and ev - er - more! ev - er-more and ev - er - more!

ev - er-more and ev - er - more!

- This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord; whom the writings of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected,
- 6. Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant with high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–410) Music: 11th century; adapt. 1582 | Piæ Cantiones

BLESSING

Minister: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.



All are invited to the Welcome Center for light refreshments.



The SANCTUARY CHOIR

Daniel Schmunk, conductor

Soprano
Rose Brokaw
Judith Dean
Abigail Downing
Jessica Kelley
Eleanor Peltz
Jennifer Schmunk
Ruth Siewert

 $\mathcal{A}lto$

Marana Avant
Amy Baral
Lisa Bloom
Abigail Chapman
Lori Brannen Chang
Emily Hutchings
Catherine Iatesta
Megan Ibekwe
Madison Lewis
Elizabeth Lohnes
Susan Touloukian

Tenor
Samuel Bigus
Bryan Bilyeu
Charles Downing
R. Paul Johnson
Barry Johnston
Joshua Siewert
John Wendel
Douglas Williams

Rass

Lyford Beverage
Dean Blackette
Christian Briere
Joshua Halberstadt
Richard Ibekwe
John Law
Peter van der Meer
Philip Mell
Christopher Nichols
Jonathan VanderWoude

Chorister
Ellen C. Skinner

Judah VanderWoude

The PARK STREET ORCHESTRA

First Violin Second Violin Viola Sarah M. Skinner Susanna Monroe Kayla Woodworth Caroline Smoak Amy Galluzzo Peter Chew Darcy Montaldi William Kinney Lydia Beverage Jessica Kartawidjaja Adrienne Hartzler Cara Hanson Sarah Zahorodni Daniel Faris Joshua Wang Aidan C. Montmeny Kimberly Moy

> Cello Bass Kirstin Peltz Scot Fitzsimmons Karen Monroe Reginald Lamb Sarah Hoskins Lindy Billhardt Daniel Tavani Yu-Hsuan Huang Megan Tavani

Horn **Flute** Tuba Michael Bellofatto Julianne Johnston Hayden Silvester Eileen Yarrison Virginia Morales Harp Rachel Brake Angelina Savoia Oboe Drew Halberstadt Nathan Swain Timpani Jillian Woodstock Trumpet Casey Voss Eric Berlin Clarinet Kenneth Wegiel Percussion Hannah Tam Charles Peltz Andrew Coleman Trombone Donald Lucas Organ Bassoon Kevin Virgilio Jennifer Velázquez Abigail Heyrich

David Paligora

Dominic Panunto

READERS

Bidding Prayer Leonard Mosiah

First Lesson Gabriel Gerber Second Lesson Jacob Lubinski

Third Lesson Roselle Heckendorn

Fourth Lesson Cara Hanson

Fifth Lesson Elizabeth Hansen

Sixth Lesson Richard Ibekwe

Seventh Lesson Nathan Skinner

Eighth Lesson Jason Abraham
Ninth Lesson The Rev. Mark Booker

SENIOR MINISTER
The Reverend Mark L. Booker

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Nathan Skinner

DIRECTOR OF CHORAL MUSIC

Daniel Schmunk

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Jennifer Schmunk

LIVESTREAM PRODUCER

P. H. Benjamin Lohnes

COVER DESIGN

Elizabeth Lohnes



Thanh you for worshiping with us this evening. Join us Sundays at 8:30AM, IIAM, & 4PM. Our candlelight Christmas Eve services are at 5PM & 7PM (music led by choir, brass, and organ). On Dec. 29, one service will be held at IIAM.