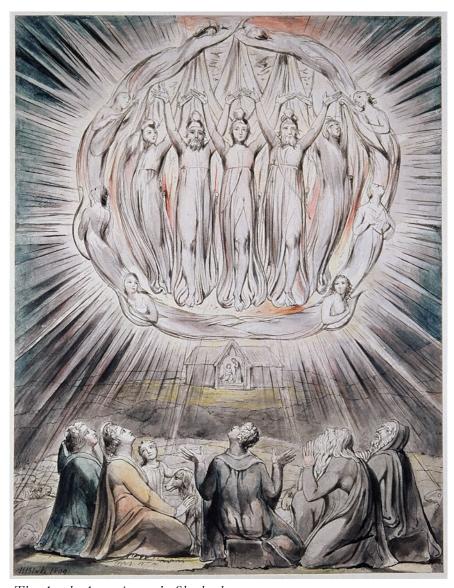
Christmas Eve

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



The Angels Appearing to the Shepherds William Blake, 1809

24 December 2023 5:00 PM

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & School Houston, Texas

Voluntaries

Noël nouvelet Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Still, still, still/In the Bleak Midwinter French carol, arr. Cater Polish carol, arr.. Swanson German carol/Gustav Holst, arr. Slavens

place where he

gone.

is

God's right hand on high.

In Procession, a Hymn

Irby

All stand and sing. The first verse will be sung by the choir.



Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895); st. 3 James Waring McCrady (b.1938). Music: *Irby*, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

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The Invitation & Prayers of the People

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 a 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 offer our common prayers and supplications to God.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our presiding bishop; Andy, Jeff, Héctor, and Kai, our bishops; and Jimmy, Clint, Jeff, Joann, Francene, and Bob, our priests; That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, for Joe, our president; Greg, our governor; Sylvester, our mayor; the Congress; the courts, and all those who work for the cause of justice and reconciliation;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Priest adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Invitatory Carol

Peace on Earth

All sit. Sung by the choir.

And snow falls down on me.

Peace on earth.

The night is dark and soft.

Peace on earth.

The lights that sparkle in the square,

The smoke the lingers in the air.

Peace on earth.

And grace falls down on me.

Peace on earth.

The dark will turn aside.

Peace on earth.

The fires that burn in ev'ry hearth
Do sing out praise of Christmas past.

Peace on earth.

Hear them singing. Peace on earth.

Words & Music: Errollyn Wallen

The First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5

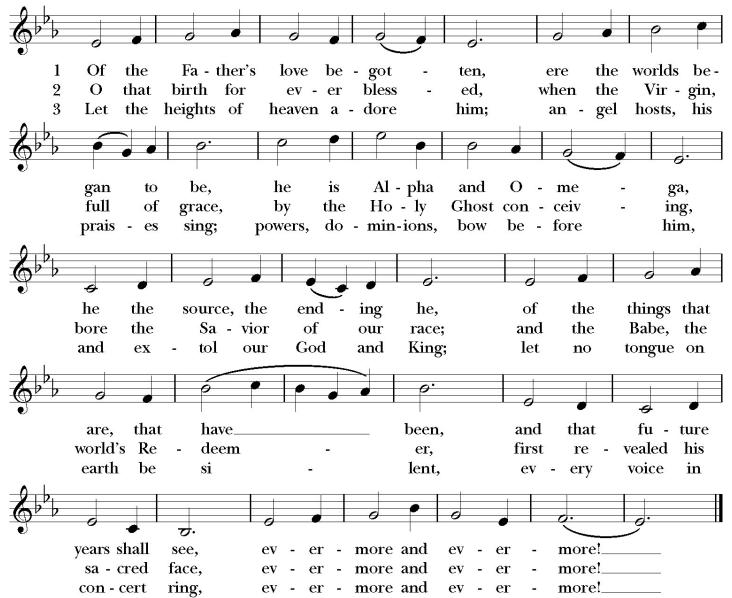
The Lesson will be read by an acolyte.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing.



Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Second Lesson

Genesis 3:1-7a, 22-24

All sit. The Lesson will be read by a member of the Youth of St Andrew's.

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.

Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Second Carol

Adam lay ybounden

Music: Philip Ledger

Sung by the choir.

Adam lay ibowndyn bowndyn in a bond fowr' powsand wynter bowt he not to long

And al was for an appil
An appil þat he tok
as clerkis fyndyn
wretyn in her' book

Ne hadde þe appil take ben þe appil taken ben ne hadde neuer our lady a ben heuene qwen

Blyssid be be tyme pat appil take was berfor' we mown syngyn *Deo gracias*.

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 clerkës finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady A-been heavenë queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we may singen:
Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9

The Lesson will be read by a member of the Junior Choristers Choir.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

With righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling 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 asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Third Carol Forest Green

All stand and sing. The third verse is sung by the choir.



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26–38

All sit. The Lesson will be read by a lector.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Fourth Carol

Gabriel's Message

All stand and sing. The third verse will be sung by the choir.



Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924).

Music: Gabriel's Message, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943) © 1961.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 1; 3–7

All sit. The Lesson will be read by the Head of Ushers.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Fifth Carol

Sung by the choir.

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance;

Sing, oh my love, oh my love, my love, my love, This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance Thus was I knit to man's nature To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was So very poor, this was my chance Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance, My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance.

Words & Music : English traditional, arr. John Gardner

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

The Lesson will be read by a teacher from St Andrew's School.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sixth Carol

On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)

All stand and sing.

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring News of great joy news of great mirth News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty

When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night Glory to God and peace to men Now and forever more amen

Words: Bishop Luke Wadding, 17th-century Music: English traditional, arr. Philip Ledger

The Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

All sit. The Lesson will be read by the Director of Altar Guild.

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 ob-

served 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.

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

The Seventh Carol

All Bells in Paradise

Sung by the choir.

Deep in the cold of winter,

Darkness and silence were eve'rywhere;

Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness a wonderful sound,

A wonderful sound to hear.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting I asked what this sign may be;
Christ, our Messiah, revealed in a stable,
A marvelous sight, a marvelous sight to see.

He comes down in peace, A child in humility,

The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor; Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures, Gold, incense, and myrrh.

Words & Music: John Rutter

The Eighth Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-12

The Lesson will be read by the Junior Warden.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;

today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,

and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,

and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sung by the choir.

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the infant king, Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying. Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the infant king, Soon will come sorrows with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping. Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby baby, now a-dozing, sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the infant king, Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave, a last reposing. Sing lullaby.

Sing lullaby, lullaby, is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby. Hush, do not wake the infant king, Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering death, its bondage breaking. Sing lullaby.

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould Music: Frederick Teardo

The Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1-14 All sit. The Lesson will be read by the Rector.

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.

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



Words: John Frances Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, present from of melody att. John Frances Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

The Collects

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Mendelssohn



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H.Cummings (1831-1915)

The Blessing

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

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

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

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

In Procession, a Voluntary

Paean on Divinum Mysterium

John Cook

The congregation is invited to sit for the remainder of the voluntary after the procession has ended.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Reverend Clint Brown, Officiant
The St. Andrew's, Choristers, & Junior Choristers Choirs
The St Andrew's Choral Scholars
Mr. Stacy Jenkins, conductor

Readers

Andrew Biscone, Matthew Perkins, Fiona Kirk, Kay Lynn Jenkins, Elizabeth Dennis, Elsa Reymundo, Karin Farquhar, Benjamin Gibbs & The Reverend Jimmy Grace.

GUEST MUSICIANS

Stephanie Gustafson, *harp* Melisa Gultan, Abigail Padilla, & Kiana Semiei, *soprano* Ethan Marfil & Jason Oquendo, *tenor*

Support for today's guest musicians is provided by David & Mary Rennie and in thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus Christ and in memory of Elizabeth Yeung Brown, sister of Mary Rennie.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Elaine "Sissy" Massey by Cathey Harrison
The Rev. Haskin V Little and the Rev. John E. Binford by John Lanier
Harry Baxter, Jackie Baxter, Dick Baxter, and Ray Wallace by Kipp Wallace Baxter
Our departed loved ones by Paul and Laurie Hardwick
Xian Biao Zhang by the Rev. Clint Brown and Cavan Zhang
Sara Lewis by Pam Lewis
Victoria Conti by Carrie Conti

Jean Lykes Grace and R. Randall Grace, Jr. by the Rev. Jimmy and Marla Grace Mary Frances and Bill Jarrett, Martha and Forrest Liger by Alli Jarrett and Karin Farquhar Lynnae Thompson by Craig Thompson Betty and Ernest F. Simpson, and Gertie Williams by Nancy and Shannon Simpson

GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Family and Friends by Cathey Harrison
The St. Andrew's Staff by the Rev. Clint Brown and Cavan Zhang
Our many blessings by Paul and Laurie Hardwick
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church by the Rev. Jimmy and Marla Grace
Diane and Win Farquhar, Ann Weeks, Nancy and Tony Jarrett by Alli Jarrett and Karin Farquhar
J.D. and Michael Alexander by John and Julie Alexander
Mr. John Kirk and the Music Ministry of St. Andrew's in the Heights
by Stacy and Kay Lynn Jenkins
The grandchildren of Lynnae Thompson, Elle Williams, Parker and Preston Simmons
by Craig Thompson
Gary Burton by Diana Burton
St. Andrew's by Stephanie Wells

GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Dr. Michael J. King by Ken and Patti Anderle



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

1819 Heights Boulevard Houston, Texas 77008 saecheights.org | 713-861-5596

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend James M.L. Grace, Rector
The Reverend Clint Brown, Associate Rector for Youth & Adult Formation
The Reverend Jeff Bohanski, Assistant Rector
The Reverend Canon Joann Saylors, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Francene Young, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Bob Merrill, Assisting Priest
Carrie Conti, Office Manager
John Kirk, Director of Music & Organist
Lisa Puccio, Coordinator of Family Formation & Special Needs Ministry
Jamie Martin-Currie, Head of School
Frank Guevara, Facilities Manager
Byron Pineda, Sexton

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