



A Festival of Lessons & Carols December 27, 2020

9:00 am on Zoom

Ministers of the Liturgy The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Rachel Carpenter, Mary Johnson, Brandon Kee, Kevin Keppler,
Steve Ketcham, Peach Warren

Musicians:

Organist: Randolph Bloom
Pianist: Jeff Lukas
Soloists: Jeff Lukas & Cathy Poch
Celloist: Kimberly Stochaj
Violinist: Emily Rose Maddock
Violist: Madelyn Stochaj

Prelude

Prayer for a New Mother

By Richard Shephard;
Text by Dorothy Parker
Soloist Cathy Poch

Opening Hymn

Hark, the herald angels sing

Hymn #87
Organist: Randolph Bloom

*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!"*

*Hail the heav'n born prince of peace! / Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings / Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by / Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth / Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing / "Glory to the newborn King!"*

The Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Holy Season, 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. 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 his Church in our country and in this state of Massachusetts. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as for all of us who live under the threat of violence and war. Finally, let us remember before God 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:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, in 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The First Lesson:

Genesis 3:1-21

*Adam, Eve, and the Serpent
Reader: Mary Johnson*

Musical meditation

The First Nowell

Hymn #109

Organist: Randolph Bloom

*The first "Nowell" the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!*

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!*

The Second Lesson: **Isaiah 11:1-9** *The Birth of the Messiah Foretold*
Reader: Brandon Kee

Musical Meditation **Angels we have heard on high** **Hymn #96**
Kim Stochaj, Cello; Madelyn Stochaj, Viola; & Emily Rose Maddock, Violin

The Third Lesson **Micah 5:2-4** *The King from Bethlehem*
Reader: Rachel Carpenter

Musical meditation **It came upon a midnight clear** *solo by Cathy Poch*

The Fourth Lesson **Luke 1:26-38** *Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin*
Reader: Kevin Keppler

Musical meditation **When out of Poverty is Born**
text: the Rev. Kathryn Galloway
Tune: Kinsfold
Jeff Lukas, Piano and solo

The Fifth Lesson **Luke 2:1-20** *The birth of Our Lord*
Reader: Peach Warren

Musical meditation **Joy to the World** **Hymn #100**
Kim Stochaj, Cello; Madelyn Stochaj, Viola; & Emily Rose Maddock, Violin

The Sixth Lesson **John 1:1-14** *The Mystery of the Incarnation*
Reader: Steve Ketcham

Musical meditation **Go tell it on the mountain** **Hymn #99**
Organist: Randolph Bloom

Refrain: *Go, tell It on the mountain, / over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell It on the mountain / that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching / Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light:*

Refrain

*Down in a lowly manger / Our humble Christ was born
And God send us salvation, / That blessed Christmas morn:*

Refrain

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

A Collect for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of fear, 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

*Johann Sebastian Bach
Organist: Randolph Bloom*