

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH

*Sharing God's love and serving God's people
with Christ in our hearts and God's work through our hands*



Lessons and Carols December 27, 2020

9 am

Trinity Episcopal Church
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A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Opening Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of four systems of staves, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system begins with a measure rest marked '4' and contains the next two lines. The third system begins with a measure rest marked '7' and contains the next two lines. The fourth system begins with a measure rest marked '10' and contains the final line of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of simple chords and moving lines in the left hand.

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Brigh - ter vi - sions
Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
flocks by night, God with us is now re - si - ding;
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear; Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scen - ding,

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth. Come and wor - ship,
Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.

come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tales God's angels who guide, protect and bring good news of great joy; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

Reader: Just when life seems cozy and comfortably predictable, angels appear unexpectedly, and point us in directions we would not have chosen.


First Lesson:

Luke 1:8-20

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus Luke 1: 68-79*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for ' us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

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Second Lesson:

Luke 1:26-38

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15: Magnificat



The image displays a musical score for the Magnificat, Canticle 15. It consists of three staves of music, each with four vocal parts (1, 2, 3, 4) and their corresponding lyrics. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

1. My soul pro - claims the Lord my God. My spir - it
2. All na - tions now will share my joy; For gifts God
3. For those who fear the Ho - ly One, God's mer - cy
4. God fills the hun - gry with good things, And sends the

1. sings God's praise, Who looks on me, and
2. has out - poured. This low - ly one has
3. will not die. Whose strong right arm puts
4. rich a - way; The prom - ise made to

1. lifts me up, That glad - ness fills my days.
2. been made great. I mag - ni - fy the Lord.
3. down the proud, And lifts the low - ly high.
4. A - bra - ham Is filled to end - less day.

Mary's Song, Anne Carter© 1988, Society of the Sacred Heart, All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-736239. All rights reserved.

Reader: Just when we have reached the point of comforting assurance in our respectability, angels appear unexpectedly, and pose uncomfortable questions We would not have chosen to face.

Third Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for

he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,
which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: Low How a Rose

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff and a single bass line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three lines of text. The first system includes a three-part setting of the first line. The second system continues the melody with two lines of text. The third system concludes the melody with two lines of text. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind,
*3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);
tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal* 1940
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alle Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;

$\text{♩} = 50$
76 76 76 76

Fourth Lesson:

Luke 2: 8-20

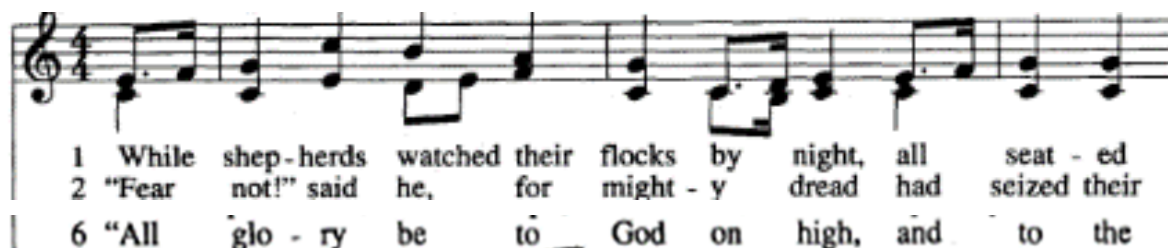
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, 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 favours!’

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**





Reader: And when we have followed the pointings of angels and answered their disquieting questions and we feel that things can't get any worse, angels appear unexpectedly, and remind us that 'all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'.

Fifth Lesson:

Matthew 2: 7-15

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: When Christ's appearing was made known



When Christ's appearing was made known,
King Herod trembled for his throne;
but he who offers heavenly birth
sought not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far
and followed on his guiding star;
by light their way to Light they trod,
and by their gifts confessed their God.

All glory, Jesus, be to thee
For this thy glad epiphany:
whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for ever more.

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Sixth Lesson

Matthew 28: 1-7

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing



The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in G major (one sharp). It consists of four systems of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first system has three verses. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has three lines of lyrics. The fourth system has two lines of lyrics, each with a repeat sign. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

The love of God works to good in all who trust in the Holy One.

The love of God works to good in all who dare to listen for angels.

The Prayers of the People

We praise you, Holy God, for the human angels who prepared the way for Jesus, his life, and his ministry.

We praise you for the prophets who inspired him with visions of a Spirit-filled servant, gathering outcasts, bringing justice to the poor, making and speaking peace, and suffering to set us free.

And we pray for those who are in any need or trouble. Bring them justice, wholeness, healing and peace.....

We praise you for Elizabeth and Zechariah, and for their son, John, who heard your word in the wilderness, proclaimed it fearlessly to his people, gathered disciples and pointed them away from himself to the One whose way he prepared.

And we pray for those in positions of leadership, that they may govern with humility and defend and preserve the dignity of every human being....

We praise you for Mary and Joseph, who nursed, protected, and guided him, accepting the vocation of parenthood, and modeling your justice, kindness, and love, and for the extended family and village community that embraced and cherished him.

And we pray for those who are dear to 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.**

One: Loving God, you speak to your people through angels.

Many: **Keep our ears and hearts open to the whispers of angel voices.**

One: Angels come among us and many have entertained them unawares.

Many: **Keep us watchful and waiting for the angels in our midst;**

Teach us to recognize them in all their disguises.

One: Angels come among us, their presence comforting or disquieting.

Many: **May they guide us as we journey into God's future.**

Blessing

May the news of the angels fill your life and your heart with great joy.

May the star that guided the wise lead you to the truth of understanding.

May the witness of the shepherds affirm in you the message of the Gospel.
May the sound of the incarnate Word bring you peace and hope.
May the presence of the sacred baby remind you of your own holiness.
And the blessing of our Triune God be with you and those you love today and
always. AMEN.

Carol Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The image displays a musical score for the carol "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score is organized into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The first system begins with the lyrics "Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, 'Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord, late in time be Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right eous-ness! Light and life to". The second system continues with "mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — hold him come, off - spring of the Vir gin's womb: veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; — all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, —". The third system continues with "join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an ge - lic hosts pro - claim, 'Christ is — born in hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, — pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Im born that we no more may die, — born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us". The fourth system concludes with "Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King." ma - nu - el. se cond birth.

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and
Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord, late in time be
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Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King."
ma - nu - el.
se cond birth.

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