

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lime Rock, Connecticut

Offering Companionship Along The Way

A Celebration of Christmas Lessons and Carols

January 3, 2021

Prelude “In principio erat verbum” (In the beginning was the word) à 6 by Orlando di Lasso (1530/32-1594)
Sung by members of Crescendo Vocal Ensemble

The Bidding Prayer

Leader: Beloved in Christ: On this Second Sunday in Christmas, let it be our delight to hear the words of Holy Scripture that remind us of God’s love and promise to us and to all people.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our rebellion against that love 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 pray for the needs of the 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 community.

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, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope has been 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
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.

Leader Blessed be you, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ our Lord. God of love, you have come among us, to renew us, refresh us and restore us. Keep us ever aware of your love and the radiance of your goodness through Christ who descended to lift us up and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Five Lessons and Carols

Hymn “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Lesson One The Book of Genesis 3:8-19

Read by Janet Walker

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, 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?" 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 from 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 from 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 tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon 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 hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

Lesson Two The Prophecy of Isaiah 35:1-10

Read by Alexis Dorf

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn “We Three Kings of Orient are”

Three Kings of Orient

Lesson Three The Prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34

Read by Eleanore Jenks

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says 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. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Carol "Still, still, still"

Solo verse by Ron M'Sadoques, tenor

Trad. Austrian Folk Song, arr. Ron McVey

Lesson Four The Book of Baruch 4:36-5:9

Read by Al Dorf

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Carol "La Virgen y San José" (The Virgin and Saint Joseph)

by Lorenzo Florián

Lesson Five The Gospel of Luke 1:5-25

Read by Tom Ragan

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. 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." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Cranham

The Prayers of the People

Lord, that the church may proclaim the joy of the Gospel: that it may bring your strength and hope to all in need; that it may reveal your glory in our midst. We pray today for all church leaders, lay and ordained and all who work for God's mission in the world.

O Lord Christ, our Redeemer, **Save your people who call upon you.**

Lord, you are the beginning and the source of all things, teach us to have respect towards your creation. We pray for all who are involved in the caring for our planet; for ecologists, conservationists, for farmers and for fishermen, for all who seek to supply us with our needs.

O Lord Christ, our Redeemer, **Save your people who call upon you.**

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Deliver us and our loved ones from all strife. We pray for those on our parish cycle of prayer; Kathy Drake and Steve Potter, Russell and Cheryl Duntz, for Pari Forood and for their families.

O Lord Christ, our Redeemer, **Save your people who call upon you.**

We remember today all who are sick and have asked for our prayers (*we read from the book and leave time for people to add names*); we remember all who walk in darkness, the doubting and the despairing that all may come to behold your glory and know that they are loved. O Lord Christ, our Redeemer,

Save your people who call upon you.

Eternal God, you are the giver of life which is eternal, you will not let your loved ones be lost or destroyed. We pray for our friends and loved ones who are now in your kingdom. (*we read from the book and leave time for people to add names*) O Lord Christ, our Redeemer,

Save your people who call upon you.

Leader The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn “What Child Is This”

Greensleeves

Doxology Hymn 380, vs 3

Old 100th

Leader Let us say together The General Thanksgiving .

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Hymn “The First Nowell”

The First Nowell

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Improvisation on “The first Nowell

*The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of James Korrie Brehm
by Tom Ragan.*

Announcements

There are no in-person services at this time.

Pastor Heidi returns from vacation on January 5.

Thursdays Bible Study will resume on January 7
12:30 PM Bible Study – The Gospel of Luke

Sundays 10:30 AM Online Spiritual Eucharist with music
11:30 Zoom Coffee “Hour”

January 15 Annual Reports due to the Vestry for the Annual Meeting

Sun., Jan. 24 Noon: Annual Meeting on Zoom. No snow date needed this year!

Serving Today

Rector: The Rev. Heidi Truax

Music Director and Video Editor: Christine Gevert

Worship leader: Danielle A. Gaherty

Readers: Janet Walker, Alexis Dorf, Eleanore Jenks, Al Dorf, Tom Ragan

Flowers: Flower Committee

Verger: Geoff Brown

The word “carol” is probably derived from “koros”, the circle of dancers and singers who were an integral part of Greek drama. Originally frowned upon by the church because of their origin in a pagan culture, by the 15th century, carols were a regular part of seasonal worship throughout Christianity.

In contrast to hymns, which are more didactic, carols tell a narrative or story, as is evident in our service today. We begin with the Genesis story of The Fall, then work our way through the prophet Isaiah, and finally to the stories of the Annunciation, and the Birth of Jesus. Finally, we read the Gospel of John’s reflection on what all this means.

The first “Nine Lessons and Carols” Service was created by Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro, (and later Archbishop of Canterbury) in 1889. Tradition tells us it was his attempt to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve! The current “Festival of Lessons and Carols” was established in the chapel of Kings’ College, Cambridge, and is broadcast internationally each year.

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