

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Washington Street near Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866**



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3 DECEMBER 2017

3:00 P.M.

About this Service

In 1934, sixteen years after he had introduced to King's College, Cambridge, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, the Dean, The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, composed a similar service for Advent Sunday. His concern for more imaginative forms of worship appears in the Preface he wrote to that service. "In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more evident than those of the Prayer Book." Intended to express "the desire of all nations and ages," this Advent Carol Service had as its purpose "not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it."

This service of ancient precedent is a vivid expression of the Church's preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus both in the festival of Jesus' Nativity and in the consummation of the ages. In it we symbolize and express the loving bond that joins all within our fellowship and the peace within the whole Church, as well as the joy and worship of us all at the advent of the Son of Man.

THE PARISH STAFF

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
The Reverend Paul F. Evans
Mr. Landon Moore
Mr. Farrell Goehring
Dr. Kathleen Slezak
Barbara Latzko
Mr. Robert E. Bullock
Mr. Sean Byrnes

Interim Rector
Priest Associate
Postulant for Holy Orders
Organist & Director of Music
Choral Director
Parish Administrative Assistant
Verger
Sacristan

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A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Organ – *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation shall stand as the choir sings the following

Matin Responory – *Aspiciens a longe*

- V. I look from afar:
R. And lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
- V. Go ye out to meet him and say:
R. Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
V. High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
R. Go ye out to meet him and say:
V. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
R. Tell us, art thou he that should come?
V. Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
R. To reign over thy people Israel.
V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
R. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
- V. Go ye out to meet him and say:
R. Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Words: from the *First Responory of Advent Sunday*, Office of Matins
Music: adapted from a *Magnificat* by Giovanni P. dePalestrina (1525/6-1594)

As the procession enters the church, all sing this

Hymn

1 Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

2 Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised Fruit to man displayed.

3 The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honor all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in His temple dwells below.

4 Forth from His chamber goeth He,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now His course to run.

5 From God the Father He proceeds,
To God the Father back He speeds;
His course He runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

6 O equal to the Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

7 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

8 All laud to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee;
All glory, as is ever meet,
To God the Holy Paraclete.

Words: *Veni, Redemptor gentium* St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

Translation John Mason Neale (1866)

Music: *Puer nobis*, Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

All then shall be bidden to prayer in these words

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all men and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in his place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

Officiant and People

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.

The Officiant concludes

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. *Amen.*

Then shall the congregation sit.

The choir now sings this

Carol – People Look East

People look East.
The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People look East, and sing today:
Love the Guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch.
When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People look East, and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength to nourish,
That in course the flow'r may flourish'
People look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.

Angels,
announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the Word, the Lord is coming.
People look East and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjan

Music: *Besancon*, arr. Barry Ferguson (b. 1942)

The First Lesson – Isaiah 40:1-8

Lector A member of the Choir

The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the

people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. Thanks be to God.

Carol – *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er the earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.

Words: paraphrase of *Isaiah 40*, trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863
Music: Louis Bourgeois (c. 1551); arr. Kathleen Slezak

The Second Lesson – *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

Lector Choral Director

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Thanks be to God.

Carol – *Fum, Fum, Fum*

Ancient prophets first foretold him: Fum, fum, fum.
John the Baptist did extol him: Fum, fum, fum.

Refrain: Come join the marching throng of Christians,
 Come, and away to fill the churches
 With your voices praising Heaven: Fum, fum, fum.

Hear the prophet tell his story: Fum, fum, fum.
Christ is coming in his glory: Fum, fum, fum.

Refrain

Hear, you people round about me: Fum, fum, fum.
Come and have your sins forgiven: Fum, fum, fum.

Refrain

Words and Music: Traditional Catalan Carol

The Third Lesson – *Zechariah 9:9-10*

Lector A Parish Archivist

The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. Thanks be to God.

The congregation shall stand. All now sing this

Hymn [56]

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Refrain

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Refrain

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

Words: Latin, twelfth century; trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1851
Music: *Veni Emmanuel* (fifteenth century plainsong)

The congregation shall sit.

The Fourth Lesson – Haggai 2:6-9

Lector Lay Eucharistic
Visitor Coordinator

The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. Thanks be to God.

Carol – *’Twas in the Year that King Uzziah Died*

’Twas in the year that King Uzziah died,
A vision by Isaiah was espied:
A lofty throne, the Lord was set thereon;
And with his glory all the temple shone.
Bright seraphim were standing round about;
Six wings had every of that choir devout;
With twain he awesome veiled his face, and so
With twain he dreadful veiled his feet below,
With twain did he now hither, thither fly:
And thus aloud did one to other cry:
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth,
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth,
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth,
Full of his glory are earth and heaven, both.
And at their cry the lintels moved apace,
And clouds of incense filled the Holy Place.

Words: *Isaiah 6*

Music: Joel Martinson (b.1960)

The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. Thanks be to God.

Carol – *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

Words: *Revelation 22*, adapted
Music: Paul Manz (1919-2009)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed 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 favoured, 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 favour 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 – *A Dove Flew Down*

A dove flew down from heaven,
A dove rare and pure,
In angel garb appearing,
To greet a maid demure:
All grace I bring you,
Tender, lovely maid
No soul with such adorning
Has ever been arrayed. Kyrie eleison.

I bring you joyous greetings:
The Lord is with you!
A Child you will be bearing:
You must believe it's true.
So welcome, welcome,
Open wide your heart.
That God upon this visit
His favor may impart. Kyrie eleison.

To this the virgin, bowing
Responded with awe:
If this is what He wishes,
His wish shall be my law,
Yet more than willing
I surrender me,
If such Love is my Master,
His servant I will be. Kyrie.

And so the Gift was given,
Our Helper in need,
New life to dwell among us,
Eternal God indeed!
This Jesus Christ Child,
Son whom Mary bore,
Is come to be our Savior,
To heav'n our open Door. Kyrie.

Words: German Carol, ca 1600 Trans, J.J. Vajda, 1971
Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

The congregation shall stand.

The Seventh Lesson – Mark 1:1-15

Lector The Interim Rector

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching

the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Thanks be to God.

All now sing this

Hymn [59]

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

So when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, sixth century; trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Music: *Merton* (William Henry Monk, 1823-1889)

The Collect

Officiant We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.
People In the midst of thy temple.
Officiant Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming: Grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The congregation shall sit.

Greetings

During the following, an offering will be received.

Anthem – And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Words: *Isaiah 40:5*

Music: from *The Messiah*, George F. Handel (1685-1759)

The congregation shall stand.

Vesper Responsory – Judea et Jerusalem

- V. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
V. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the holy Ghost.
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Words: *Responsory* from Sarum Matins for Christmastide

Music: Palestrina

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

All now sing this

Hymn [57]

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: John Cennick (1718-1755), 1752;
as altered by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1758;
Music: *Helmsley* (Martin Madan, 1726-1790)

Organ – *Wachet Auf*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)