

A Service of
Lessons and Carols
at
Old St. Luke's Church



Old Washington Pike
Scott Township, Pennsylvania

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

- ℣ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- ☩ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- ℣ Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- ☩ **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- ℣ To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- ☩ **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

ENTRANCE CAROL

"Once in Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-1895
Tune: *Irby*; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876
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COLLECT

- ℣ The Lord be with you.
- ☩ **And with your spirit.**
- ℣ Let us pray. O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.
- ☩ **Amen**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3.8-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Tune: *Hyfrydol*; Rowland H. Prichard. 1811-1887

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SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22.15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

**Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**

**With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**

Text: Carl P. Daw, b. 1944 (based on Luke 1.68-79); © 1989, Hope Publishing Company

Tune: *Forest Green*; *English Folk Tune*; Public Domain

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9.2-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Lo! How a Rose" - Praetorious

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5.2-4

Bethlehem's place in history is foretold.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Tune: *St. Louis*; Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1.26–46a

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Chant Setting by William Crotch

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2.1–16

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

℣ The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th Century

Tune: *Away in a Manger*; James R. Murray, 1841-1905

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THE BIDDING PRAYER

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

℣ These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught 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, forever and ever. Amen

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1.1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!**

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; translated Frederick Oakely, 1802-1880

Tune: *Adeste Fideles*; attributed to John Francis Wade

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DISMISSAL

☐ Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Leading Us in Worship

Presider

The Very Rev. Scott Quinn
*Retired Dean, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
And President of the Old St. Luke's Board of Directors*

Organist/Director of Music

Jeffrey H. Gray
*Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carnegie
and Board Member of Old St. Luke's*

Choir

Members of the Liturgical Choir
Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carnegie

Additional Lectors

David Frankowski
Sergeant, Wayne's Legion, Woodville Plantation

Larry Weiss
Board Member of Old St. Luke's

Robert Windhorst
Former President, Neville House Association

About This Service

This afternoon's Service of Lessons and Carols is a "COVID-shortened" service based upon *The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, presented annually in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England. The Festival at King's was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn *Once in Royal David's City*. Almost every year the choice of carols varies, and some new ones have been introduced by successive organists. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

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Old St. Luke's Church, Burial Ground and Garden

This weathered stone Church stands on ground which has been the site of Christian worship for two and a half centuries.



Pioneer militiamen accompanied Gen. John Forbes in his expedition to capture Fort Duquesne from the French in 1758, and some returned to make their homes in the Chartiers Valley. This site was an outpost of the British Army prior to the Revolutionary War. Services were maintained by Chaplains visiting the British regiment stationed here.

This was one of the first churches to be founded on the frontier. Major William Lea, a member of the Forbes expedition, set aside a plot of ten rods (165 feet) square for the Church and Burial Ground, and in 1790 a frame church building was erected. Prominent in the congregation were Lea and Gen. John Neville, the federal tax collector during the Whiskey Rebellion. It is believed that St. Luke's Church was the meeting place for Federalist neighbors seeking refuge from the rebels in the Whiskey Rebellion, 1791- 1794.

The present stone edifice was built in 1852, unique in the period because of its stone gothic arches. Years later, a stone from the quarries of King Solomon's Temple and a stone from the English ancestral home of George Washington, were placed in the Church walls. Included in the furnishings is the Joseph Harvey pipe organ, built in London in 1823, and later brought over the Allegheny Mountains by mule pack. The church and organ were consecrated in 1854.

Buried here are numerous veterans of the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, together with an unknown number of faithful souls. Also buried here is Jane Lea, baptized here in 1774 and described as "the first white child born in the Chartiers Valley."

Old St. Luke's is supported only by offerings at church services and the generosity of Annual Members.