

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**December 20th 2020 7:00pm**



**Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.**

**The Church of St. John the Evangelist**  
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4  
**[www.stjohn316.com](http://www.stjohn316.com) 519-743-022**

To our beloved Parish,

Welcome to our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We are so thrilled to find adaptive and innovative ways to share music with our Parish and beyond during *these unprecedented times*. At St. John's we are so blessed with members of our congregation who possess so many gifts: voices, organists, professional oboists, budding film editors, and many more.

We undertook this project not only to provide beautiful music for this Christmas Season, but to uphold tradition, and to inspire our singers who have dearly missed the camaraderie and music that comes from singing in the choir.

The following service was pre-recorded by various members of the Parish Choir of Church of St. John the Evangelist throughout the month of December of 2020. Proper COVID-19 safety precautions were taken and provincial, municipal, and Diocesan policies were strictly adhered to.

We hope you enjoy our Advent Lessons and Carols, our gift to you this Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,

The Parish Choir of The Church of St. John the Evangelist

**SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
**December 20 2020– 7:00 p.m.**

**Prelude**

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

Bill Hutton - Organ

**Opening Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City

H.J. Gauntlett

arr. A. H. Mann & D. Willcocks

Rebecca McKay, Deb Sheach  
Jonathan Malton, Angus Sheach

1. 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.
2. 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 mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## **Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity within the Church he came to build, especially within our diocese

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind, and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

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 in heaven, Hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; And forgive us our sin, As we forgive them that sin against us; Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and Forever. Amen.

## 1st Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Nik Ward-Campbell

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

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt

Rebecca McKay, Deb Sheach,  
Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft, Sarah Cardwell (Organ)

A tender shoot hath started  
Up from a root of grace  
As ancient seers imparted  
From Jesse's holy race  
It blooms without a blight  
It blooms without a blight  
Blooms in the cold bleak winter  
Turning our darkness into light

This shoot Isaiah taught us  
From Jesse's root should spring  
The Virgin Mary brought us  
The branch of which we sing  
Our God of endless might  
Our God of endless might  
Gave her this child to save us  
Thus turning darkness into light

## 2nd Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Andrea Balfour

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

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed

shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

Pat Messick

Laura Doric, Jocelyn Truscott,  
Corinne Dutton, Deb Sheach, Sarah Cardwell (Piano)

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on  
snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Jesus Christ.  
Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

Our God, heaven cannot  
hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee  
away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty —

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him, —  
Give my heart.

## 3rd Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Ken Hull

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them

hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

O Come Divine Messiah

Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
Harm. Godfrey Ridout

Rebecca McKay, Deb Sheach,  
Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft, Sarah Cardwell (organ)

1. O come, divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away.  
*Refrain*  
Dear Saviour, haste!  
Come, come to earth.  
Dispel the night and show your face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O Come, Divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away.
2. O Christ, whom nations sigh for,  
whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
come, break the captives' fetters,  
redeem the long lost fold.  
*Refrain*
3. You come in peace and meekness  
and lowly will your cradle be;  
all clothed in human weakness

shall we your Godhead see.

*Refrain*

## 4th Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4

Elaine Duncanson

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

M. Praetorius

arr. Bruce Wheatcroft

Bill Hutton, Jonathan Malton,

Bruce Wheatcroft, Angus Sheach, Sarah Cardwell (Organ)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.

It came a flow'ret bright  
Amid the cold of winter.  
When half spent was the night.

## 5th Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

Deb Sheach

*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

Magnificat

Jeff Enns

Rebecca McKay, Jeff Enns

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength in his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed, forever.

Glory be to the father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## **6th Lesson**

Luke 2:1, 3-7

David Sapelak

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were

accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

Prepare the Way O Zion

*Then Svenska Psalmboken*

Jocelyn Truscott, Deb Sheach,  
Jonathan Malton, Angus Sheach, Sarah Cardwell (Organ)

1. Prepare the way, O Zion:  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet one who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.
2. He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding,  
O, blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Saviour's rule embrace.  
His tidings of Salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him.

O, blest is Christ that came,  
in God's most holy name.

## 7th Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Tianna Gocan

### *The shepherds go to the manger.*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God

## Carol

When Christ Was Born of Mary Free      Christopher Tambling

Rebecca McKay, Corinne Dutton,  
Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft,

When Christ was born of Mary free,  
in Bethlehem in that fair city,  
angels sung e'er with mirth and glee,  
*'In excelsis gloria'*

Herdmen beheld these angels bright,  
to them appeared with great light,  
and said, 'God's song is born this night:  
*In excelsis Gloria'*

This king is come to save his kind,  
in the scripture as we find,  
therefore this song have we in mind:  
*'In excelsis gloria'*

Then, dear Lord, for thy great grace,  
grant us the bliss to see thy face  
where we may sing to thy solace:  
*'In excelsis Gloria.'*

## **8th Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-11

The Rev. Paul Kett

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they

departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God

## **Carol**

Christmas Carol

Charles Ives

Rebecca McKay, Jocelyn Truscott,  
Corinne Dutton, Deb Sheach, Sarah Cardwell (Organ)

Little Star of Bethlehem!  
Do we see Thee now?  
Do we see Thee shining o'er the tall trees?  
Little Child of Bethlehem!  
Do we hear Thee in our hearts?  
Hear the Angels singing:  
Peace on earth good will to men!  
Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King,  
Hear the Angels sing:  
*In Excelsis Gloria, Gloria!*  
From His Father's home on high,  
Lo, for us He came to die;  
Hear the Angels sing:  
*Venite adoremus Dominum*

## **9th Lesson**

St. John 1:1-14

The Rev. Dr. Preston Parsons

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with

God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of people. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all people through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every person that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of humankind, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God

## **Carol**

Susani (*von Himmel hoch*)

Robert Buckley Farlee

Sarah J. Cardwell (Oboe),  
Sarah E. Cardwell (Organ)

## **Collect & Blessing**

Rector: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Rector: Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

Rector: May he who by his Incarnation  
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
grant you the fullness of inward peace and  
goodwill;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing      Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
Arr. David Willcocks

Laura Doric, Elaine Duncanson,  
Jonathan Malton, Angus Sheach, Corinne Dutton (Organ)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinner reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Please as man with man to dwell.  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing*

*Glory to the newborn King.*

3. 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!*

## **Postlude**

Toccata sur "Il est né, le divin Enfant"  
from *Deux Noël's*

Denis Bédard

Corinne Dutton

## **Thank you to the following participants:**

### **Rector**

The Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons

### **Assistant Clergy**

The Ven. Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

### **Wardens**

Marianne Mellinger, David Sapelak

Deb Sheach

### **Musical Directors**

Sarah E. Cardwell, Rebecca McKay

### **Audio/Visual Production**

Jonathan Malton, Rebecca McKay

And a profound thank you to all the readers and choristers for participating in this special project.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON CELEBRATIONS  
AT ST. JOHN'S**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

7:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist  
In-Person (by Registration)  
Livestream via YouTube

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