

*A Service of Lessons and Carols:  
A Meditation on Christ's Nativity on  
The First Sunday after the Epiphany*



*St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland, ME  
January 7, 2018, 4:00pm*

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS:  
A MEDITATION ON CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN WORD AND SONG

**Organ Prelude**

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

**Choral Introit:** We have seen his star

*We have seen his star in the east, and are come with our offerings to worship the Lord.*

Text and Music: Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

**Hymn 102:** Once in Royal David's City  
(The congregation begins singing at verse 3)

Irby

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Once in royal David's city<br>Stood a lowly cattle shed,<br>Where a mother laid her baby<br>In a manger for his bed:<br>Mary was that Mother mild,<br>Jesus Christ her little Child.                          | 2. He came down to earth from heaven<br>Who is God and Lord of all,<br>And his shelter was a stable,<br>And his cradle was a stall:<br>With the poor and mean and lowly,<br>Lived on earth our Savior holy.         |
| 3. And through all his wondrous childhood<br>He would honor and obey,<br>Love, and watch the lowly maiden,<br>In whose gentle arms he lay.<br>Christian children all must be<br>Mild, obedient, good as he.      | 4. For he is our childhood's pattern<br>Day by day like us he grew<br>He was little, weak and helpless<br>Tears and smiles, like us he knew<br>And he feeleth for our sadness,<br>And he shareth in our gladness.   |
| 5. And our eyes at last shall see him<br>Through his own redeeming love,<br>For that Child so dear and gentle,<br>Is our Lord in heaven above:<br>And he leads his children on<br>To the place where he is gone. | 6. Not in that poor lowly stable,<br>With the oxen standing by,<br>We shall see him: but in heaven,<br>Set at God's right hand on high,<br>When like stars his children crowned,<br>All in white shall wait around. |

**Welcome, the Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

The Very Rev. Dr. Benjamin Shambaugh  
Dean of the Cathedral

THE ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST

**Lesson:** “A rod shall come forth out of the stem of Jesse”

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Reader: Bob Hanson

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ; grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so may we with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge. Through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** A Virgin Most Pure

*A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, hath brought forth a Baby, as it hath befell,  
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, Which Adam’s transgression has wrapped us in.*

**Refrain**

*And therefore be merry, set sorrow aside;  
Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.*

*At Bethlehem city, in Jewry it was, Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,  
And there to be taxed, with many one more, For Cæsar commanded the same should be so.*

**Refrain**

*But, when they had entered the city so fair, A number of people so mighty was there,  
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small, Could get in the city no lodging at all.*

**Refrain**

*Then were they constrained in a stable to lie, Where oxen and asses they used to tie;  
Their lodging so simple, they held it no scorn, But against the next morning our Savior was born.*

**Refrain**

*Then God sent an angel from Heaven so high, To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie, And bade them no  
longer in sorrow to stay, Because that our Savior was born on this day.*

**Refrain**

Text: Traditional English carol  
Music: arr. by June Nixon (b. 1942)

**Reading:** “A Song of True Motherhood”

Julian of Norwich  
Reader: Marby Payson

God chose to be our mother in all things \*  
and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin’s womb.  
God, the perfect wisdom of all, \*  
arrayed himself in this humble place.  
Christ came in our poor flesh \*  
to share a mother’s care.  
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; \*  
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.  
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, \*  
until the full time of his passion.  
And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, \*  
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.  
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, \*

for the love of Christ works in us;  
Christ is the one whom we love.

**Choral Anthem:** Song of Mary

*Bring not a crown to wear, upon his head so fair, He needs no gold upon his shining hair, Place not a scepter in his hands, For this my babe no glory understands, Nor shall he reign o'er earthly lands.*

*Bring not your incense sweet, to lay before his feet, For thrones shall pass and kingly joys are fleet. Greet not my babe in homage deep, Let no praise break upon his sleep, Like guarding angels, silence keep.*

*Bring him your hearts alone, to God such gifts are known, The poor and meek the Father calls his own, Only your love and service bring, At gifts so sweet the heavens sing, O enter now and greet your King!*

Text: Leonard Young (1949)

Music: Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

**Lesson:** The Gift of Life

Luke 2:1-20

Reader: Alice Goshorn

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech you, O Lord our God, that we who with great gladness keep the birthday of our Saviour, may walk more worthy of him and gain hereafter the fullness of His presence. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** Adam Lay Ybounden

*Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter Thought he not too long. Deo gracias!*

*And all was for an apple An apple that he took  
As clerkes finden Written in their book. Deo gracias!*

*Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been  
Ne had never our lady A ben Heav'né queen. Deo gracias!*

*Blessed be the time That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias!*

Text: Medieval, c. 15<sup>th</sup> century

Music: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

**Reading:** For Christmas Day

John Hall

Reader: Terry Foster

Immortal Babe, who this dear day

Didst change Thine heaven for our clay,  
And didst with thy flesh Thy godhead veil,  
Eternal Son of God, all hail!  
Shine, happy star; ye angels, sing  
Glory on high to heaven's King:  
Run, shepherds, leave your nightly watch  
See heaven come down to Bethlehem's cratch.  
Worship, ye sages of the east,  
The King of gods in meanness dressed,  
O blessed maid, smile and adore  
The God thy womb and arms have bore.  
Star, angels, shepherds, and wise sages,  
Thou virgin glory of all ages,  
Restored frame of heaven and earth,  
Joy in your dear Redeemer's birth!

**Hymn 94:** While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
(An offering will be received during this hymn)

Winchester Old

#### THE DESTINY OF THE INFANT CHRIST

**Lesson:** The Servant Christ

Philippians 2:1-11  
Reader: Nancy Mawhinney

Let us pray.

We beseech you, O Lord, pour out your grace into our hearts: that, as we have known the Incarnation of your Son by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought into the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** Hodie, Christus natus est

*Today is Christ born;  
today the Savior has appeared;  
today the Angels sing,  
the Archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

Text: from a Christmas antiphon  
Music: Healey Willan (1889-1968)

**Reading:** God Comes to Us

Source Unknown  
Reader: Peter Bingham

In the piercing cry of a baby,  
The blind, naked cry

of a human soul  
entering the world for the first time —  
God comes to us  
deliberately  
vulnerable  
and unclothed.

**Hymn 112:** In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

## THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST

**Lesson:** The Glory of God Revealed

Luke 2:27-40

Reader: Garrison Murrell

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech you, Almighty God, that we on whom is poured the new light of your Incarnate Word may in our lives show forth the splendor which shines in our hearts by faith. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** What sweeter music

*What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, And give the honor to this day, That sees December turned to May. That sees December turned to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn Smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, Thus, on the sudden? Come and see The cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth Gives life and luster, public mirth, To heaven, and the under-earth. We see him come, and know him ours, Who, with his sunshine and his showers, Turns all the patient ground to flowers. Turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, And fit it is, we find a room To welcome him. To welcome him. The nobler part Of all the house here, is the heart. Which we will give him; and bequeath This holly, and this ivy wreath, To do him honour, who's our King, And Lord of all this revelling. What sweeter music can we bring, Than a carol for to sing The birth of this our heavenly King?*

Text: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

**Reading:** I Salute You

Fra Giovanni Giocondo

Reader: Anne Schink

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not;  
but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts  
find rest in it today.  
Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden  
in this present instant.  
Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow;  
behind it, yet within our reach is joy.  
Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you,  
with the prayer that for you, now and forever,  
the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

**Choral Anthem:** The Beginning of Wisdom

*These are the rich men lumbering by Whose camels have passed through the needle's eye: For Christ are the costly gifts they hold: The myrrh, the frankincense, and gold. They have made the self so small, It slips like thread through the eye of an awl. For the Highest slips into human flesh, the Godhead caught in a golden mesh. And lowliness fills their rescued mind As light slips into the eyes of the blind, And freedom slips through the captives bars Till the crown of thorns is a crown of stars.*

Text: Edith Lovejoy Pierce (1904-1983)

Music: Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)

**Lesson:** "The Word became flesh"

John 1: 1-18

Reader: The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine

**The Christmas Blessing**

Bishop Lane

May the one whose incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;  
and the blessing of God almighty, who created you, who redeemed you, and who sustains you,  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Hymn 87:** Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

**The Dismissal**

The Rev. Alice Goshorn, Deacon

Go in peace and may the love of Christ in your life be as light in the darkness around you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Organ Postlude:**

Paeon on 'Divinum Mysterium'

John Cook

**About this Service**

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. The format was based on an Order drawn up by

Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral and that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches. However, numerous Christian denominations have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, who has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, held its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

St. Luke's has a long tradition of keeping the spirit of Christmas alive by having Lessons and Carols in Epiphany. Thank you for joining us for this service this evening. We invite you to join us all year long, with Sunday worship at 7:30, 10:00 and 5:15 and Choral Evensong the first Sunday of the month at 4:00pm. For more information, see our website at [www.stlukesportland.org](http://www.stlukesportland.org) or call us at 772-5434.

### **The Cathedral Choir**

Albert Melton, Cathedral Musician; Randall Mullin, Assisting Organist

#### **Sopranos**

Georgia Bancroft  
Joanne DeKay  
Caroline Goddard  
Molly Hunt  
Hilary Jones  
Suezan Moore  
Cynthia Morris  
Jean Smart  
Emma Wolfsohn

#### **Altos**

Sally Campbell  
Lynn Dalheim  
Kenna Haines  
Gretchen Lane  
Kathy Watt  
Nan White

#### **Tenors**

Judd Hume  
David Illingworth  
Curtis Maurand  
Martin Lescault  
Ted Poland

#### **Basses**

Ray Davis Murdoch Curry  
Bob Englert  
Jim Flagler  
Chuck Hornberger  
Chris Johnston  
Parker Roberts  
Stephen White

### **Service Participants**

Officiants: The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop of Maine  
The Very Rev. Benjamin Shambaugh, Dean of the Cathedral  
Deacon: The Rev. Alice Goshorn  
Vergers: Thurl Headen, David Savage, Louisa Radtke-Rowe  
Crucifer: Fred Fowler  
Torch Bearers: Sherry Britton, Marby Payson  
Ushers: Peter Bingham, John Bancroft