

Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

~ *music & readings for Christmastide* ~

4:00PM Sunday 22 December 2024

with

The Choir of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke

Christian M. Clough, *Canon for Liturgy and Music, Director*

The Reverend George Stevens, *Interim Dean, Officiant*



The Cathedral Church of St. Luke

in the

City of Portland

and the

Episcopal Diocese of Maine

*Whoever you are,
and wherever you may be on the journey of the Spirit,
the Episcopal Church welcomes you.*

Welcome to St. Luke's Cathedral!

We are a faith community with ancient worship and modern thought, catholic traditions and progressive theology. We proclaim a Biblical perspective for thinking people, a respect for reason, science, and a diversity of perspective. This empowers compassion and care for both the wider community and one another. Our commitment to welcome and inclusion is central to our mission modeled on the Kingdom of God and proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We are part of the 1.7 million-member **Episcopal Church** in the United States, and the 85 million-member worldwide **Anglican Communion**.

St. Luke's Territorial Acknowledgement

St Luke's acknowledges that we are worshiping on "unceded territory taken by force and previously occupied by the **Wabanaki people**." (*Amended City Charter, Portland, Maine*). Some of the resources that built this cathedral came from industry related to the slave trade in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. We join our fellow residents in honoring the Wabanaki knowledge and culture that continues to thrive in the Tribal Nations. We ask for Blessing and Peace upon all indigenous peoples that have called, and always will call, this place—"The Dawnland"—HOME.



Our Mission

Today, St. Luke's welcomes every person to share in the Episcopal Church's mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ." As a cathedral, St. Luke's is the seat of the bishop and the chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. St. Luke's first service was held on Christmas Day in 1868, and continues over 150 years of reaching out to the city and people of Portland.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have made this celebration possible:

our singers, readers, flower and altar guild members, those who greened the cathedral for the season, liturgical participants, office staff, and all cathedral volunteers who support our ongoing ministries.

Thank you, one and all!

Service Participants

Members of the Cathedral Choir

** denotes guest singer*

Terry Anderson • Georgia Bancroft • Onnie Benoist • Phoebe Blume • Robert Brokaw • Linda Carleton
Joseph Colquhoun • Lynn Dalheim • Ellise Johnson • *Zen Kuriyama • Curtis Maurand • Jamie Moore
Suezan Moore • Parker Roberts • Shana Rose • William Salomon • Connie Schmalz • Dan Schmalz
*Simon Smith • *Marguerite Toscano • Gay Tucker • Kathy Watt • Stacie Webb • *Toby Webb

Readers

Mary Linneman • John Bancroft • Elizabeth Burger • Phoebe Blume • William Salomon
Judd Hume • Susan McCuller • Peter Bingham • The Rev'd Christopher Worthley

Officiant The Rev'd George Stevens,
Interim Dean

Music Leader & Organist Christian M. Clough,
Canon for Liturgy & Music

Head Verger Eleanor Roberts
Usbers Mary Linneman
Elizabeth Burger
Anna Messmer
Stan Kuziel

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. Maine Public Classical, along with many other classical music outlets online and over-the-air, broadcast the service live @ 3PM EST. 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.

Thank you for joining us for this service this evening. We invite you to join us all year long, with Sunday worship at 7:30AM, 10:00AM, 5:15PM, and Choral Evensong the first Sunday of most months at 4:00PM. For more information, see our website at <www.stlukesportland.org> or call us at (207) 772-5434.

A Christmas Welcome from the Cathedral Church of St. Luke!

Dear Friends,

The first service held at the Cathedral of St. Luke was on Christmas in 1868. In the 156 years since, this community has sought to share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, service to our community and fellowship. We are glad that you have chosen to join us on this joyful occasion.

The Christmas story told in the Gospel of Luke includes an angel appearing to shepherds watching their flocks proclaiming 'the good news that will bring great joy for all the people'. The angel was, of course, announcing our Savior's unlikely arrival in a manger in Bethlehem. The arrival of God, in the person of Jesus, is called incarnation. The Doctrine of the Incarnation says that God became human so that we might become one with him through his body. Jesus is 100% human while maintaining full 100% divinity. If the math sounds wrong, it's because this is a mystery, something we will never be able to fully grasp. The Apostle Paul calls it "the mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16). In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes of how the Incarnation of Jesus transforms our relationship with one another. He says, "The Incarnation is the ultimate reason why the service of God cannot be divorced from the service of others."

As a cathedral, St. Luke's is the seat of the bishop and chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. We gratefully serve the people of Portland and beyond by hosting the St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, the St. Luke's Food Pantry and many other outreach ministries. Information about our many outreach ministries, educational opportunities and history can be found on our website at www.stlukesportland.org

If you are visiting with us, I hope that you will find the Cathedral a place of welcome. Thank you for sharing the good news and joy of this blessed season.

Merry Christmas!

The Rev. George R. Stevens, *Interim Dean*

Welcome

The Rev. George Stevens, *Interim Dean*

When the tower bell rings, please stand as you are able. You are encouraged to sing all music printed herein.

1 Be - fore the mar - vel of this night, a - dor - ing, fold your wings and bow;
 2 A - wake the sleep - ing world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.
 3 The love that we have al - ways known, our con - stant joy and end - less light,

then tear the sky a - part with light and with your news the world en - dow.
 As - sem - ble here, ce - les - tial throng, in roy - al splen - dor come ar - rayed.
 now to the love - less world be shown, now break up - on its death - ly night.

Pro - claim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sor - row cease:
 Give earth a glimpse of heaven - ly bliss, a teas - ing taste of what they miss:
 In - to one song com - press the love that rules our u - ni - verse a - bove:

sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
 sing bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less bliss!
 sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

With One Voice – #636 “Before the marvel of this night”; Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008), Copyright © 1981 Concordia Publishing House
 Music: *Marvel*, 88. 88. 88. 86, Cark Schalk (1929-2021), Copyright © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Officiant

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight 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.

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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry, the hated, and the oppressed; those around your world whose lives are threatened by war; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and 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, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Officiant These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us: Our Father . . .

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.**

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

Please sit. The choir sings

Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong:
Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple
Bid good people
Come adore the new-born King:

Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness,
Chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

Born of mother, blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable
(’Tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934); Music: Melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582); harmonized by George Ratcliffe Woodward

First Reading

The people who walked in darkness

read by Mary Linneman

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

— *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The choir sings

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations.
How brightly beams the morning star, what sudden radiance from afar with light and comfort glowing. Thy word,
O Lord, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o’erflowing!

Words: Number 24.17; Psalm 2.9; Music: from *Christus*, Op. 97 (*posth.*), Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Second Reading

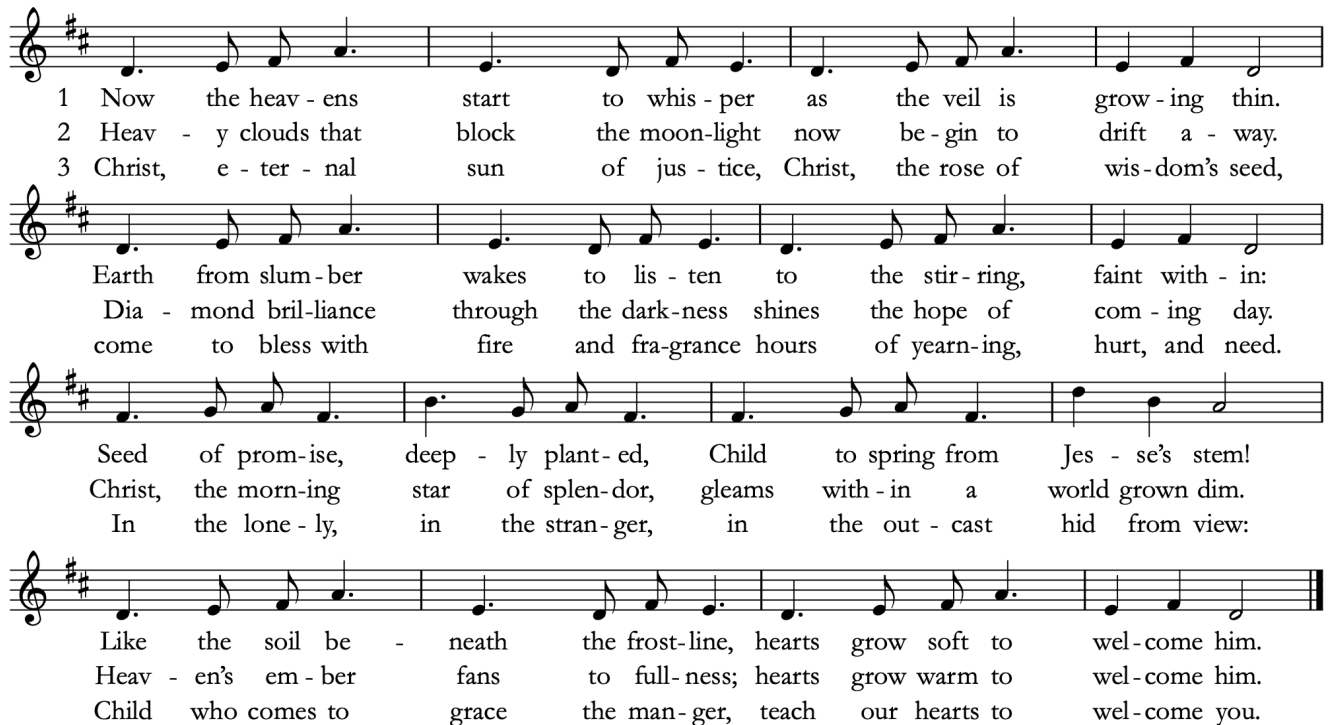
The Peaceful Kingdom

read by John Bancroft

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

— Isaiah 11:1-9

Please stand as you are able.



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,
Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.
Seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, Child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the stran - ger, in the out - cast hid from view:
Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism – #259 “Now the heavens start to whisper”; Words: Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953), 2005, Copyright © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Suo Gân*, 87. 87. D, Welsh melody; arr. Nicholas Palmer (b. 1963), arr. Copyright © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please sit.

Third Reading

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

read by Elizabeth Burger

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

— Luke 1:26-38

Please stand as you are able.

1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
2 Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your chil - dren mat - ter.

dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.

May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,
When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
So, as wom - en long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter,
Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, tho' all seems bar - ren.

e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing.
dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.
to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter.
Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Sha - ron.

Voices Found – #64 “Mary, when the angel’s voice”; Words: Carol Goodwin King, Copyright © 1997 Carol Goodwin King, Church Publishing, Inc.
Music: *Tempus adest florum*, 76. 76. D, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. from George Ratcliffe Woodward, *The Cowley Carol Book, First & Second Series*. (London: A. R. Mowbray & Co., Ltd., ca. 1902, 1912)

Please sit.

Fourth Reading

The Visitation of Mary & Elizabeth

read by Phoebe Blume

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. — *Luke 1:39-56*

Please stand as you are able.

Introduction/Interlude



1 Ye who claim the faith of Je - sus,
2 Bless - èd were the cho - sen peo - ple
3 There-fore let all faith - ful peo - ple
4 "Mag - ni - fy, my soul, God's great-ness;



sing the won - ders that were done when the love of God the Fa - ther
out of whom the Lord did come; bless - èd was the land of prom - ise
sing the hon - or of her name; let the Church, in her fore - shad - owed,
in my Sa - vior I re - joice; all the a - ges call me bless - ed,



o - ver sin the vic - tory won, when he made the Vir - gin Ma - ry
fa-shioned for his earth - ly home; but more bless - èd far the mo - ther,
part in her thanks-giv - ing claim; what Christ's mo - ther sang in glad - ness
in his praise I lift my voice; he has cast down all the might - y,



mo - ther of his on - ly Son.
she who bore him in her womb.
let Christ's peo - ple sing the same:
and the low - ly are his choice."

Conclusion



The Hymnal 1982 – #268 "Ye who claim the faith of Jesus"; Words: Sts. 1-3, Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845-1929), alt.; st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) metrical *Magnificat*; Music: *Julion*, 87. 87. 87, David Hurd (b. 1950)

Please sit.

Fifth Reading

The Birth of Jesus

read by William Salomon

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

— Luke 2:1-7

Please stand as you are able.



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for
Je - sus lay down his sweet head, the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus! look
ev - er, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear chil - dren in
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and take us to heav - en to live with thee there.

*The Hymnal 1982 – #101 “Away in a manger”, Words: Traditional carol
Music: Cradle Song, 11 11. 11 11, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), by permission of Oxford University Press*

Please sit. The choir sings

IV. “A la Nanita Nana” (Spanish)

from Carols & Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,
A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,
Mi Jesús tiene sueño bendito ea nanita ea.
Fuentecilla que corres clara y sonora,
Ruisenior q'en la selva, cantando lloras,
Callad mientras la cuna se balancea.

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,
A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,
*My little Jesus is sleepy ea nanita ea
You little fountain running clear and resonant
and you mockingbird singing in the forest
Be silent while the cradle rocks.*

Words: Spanish traditional; Music: traditional, setting from Carols & Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest, Conrad Susa (1935-2013)

Sixth Reading

The Shepherds & the Angels

read by Judd Hume

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child.

— Luke 2: 8-17

VI. “Campana sobre Campana”, “Bell on Bell” (Andalucian)

from *Carols & Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest*

¡Campana sobre campana,
y sobre campana una!
Asómate a la ventana,
y verás al Niño en la cuna.

ESTRIBILLO:

Belén, campanas de Belén
que los ángeles tocan
¿Que nuevas me traéis?

Recogido tu rebaño,
¿A dónde vas pastorcito?
Voy a llevar al portal
requesón, manteca y vino.

ESTRIBILLO

Si aún las estrellas alumbran,
¿Pastor dónde quieres ir?
Voy al portal por si el Niño
con Él me deja dormir.

ESTRIBILLO

*Bell on bell
and bell again!
Look out the window,
and you'll see the Baby in the crib.*

REFRAIN:

*The bells in Bethlehem
that the angels ring,
What news do you bring?*

*After gathering the herd,
where are you heading, my little shepherd?
I'm taking to the manger
cheese, butter, and wine.*

REFRAIN

*If the stars still shine,
shepherd, where would you like to go?
I'm going to the manger, to see
if the Baby lets me accompany him.*

REFRAIN

Words: Andalusian traditional; Music: traditional, setting from *Carols & Lullabies, Christmas in the Southwest*, Conrad Susa (1935-2013)

Please stand as you are able.

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line
4 "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throng
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
3 the Sa - vior who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to all be - gin and nev - er cease."

The Hymnal 1982 – #94 “While shepherds watched their flocks by night”; Words: Nahum Tate (1625-1715), alt.
Music: *Winchester Old*, CM, melody from *The Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1922

Please sit.

Seventh Reading

"Noel" Christmas Eve, 1913

read by Susan McCuller

A frosty Christmas Eve
when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village
in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me
peals of bells aringing:
The constellated sounds
ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above
with stars was spangled o'er.
Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields
and marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels
or the bright stars singing.

Now blessed be the tow'rs
that crown England so fair
'That stand up strong in prayer
unto God for our souls
Blessed be their founders
(said I) an' our country folk
Who are ringing for Christ
in the belfries to-night
With arms lifted to clutch
the rattling ropes that race
Into the dark above
and the mad romping din.

But to me heard afar
it was starry music
Angels' song, comforting
as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly
to his sorrowful flock:
'The old words came to me
by the riches of time
Mellow'd and transfigured
as I stood on the hill
Heark'ning in the aspect
of th' eternal silence.

— Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Please stand as you are able.

1 I heard the bells on Christ - mas Day their old, fa - mi - liar car - ols play,
2 And thought how, as the day had come, the bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom
3 Till ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, the world re - volved from night to day,
4 Then from each black, ac - curs - ed mouth the can - non thun - dered in the South,
5 It was as if an earth - quake rent the hearth - stones of a con - ti - nent,
6 And in des - pair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said;
7 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;

1 and mild and sweet the words re - peat of peace on earth, good - will to men!
2 and rolled a - long the un - bro - ken song of peace on earth, good - will to men!
3 a voice, a chime, a chant sub - lime of peace on earth, good - will to men!
4 and with the sound the car - ols drowned of peace on earth, good - will to men!
5 and made for - lorn the house - holds born of peace on earth, good - will to men!
6 "for hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good - will to men!"
7 the Wrong shall fail, the Right pre - vail, with peace on earth, good - will to men."

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Portland, Maine, 1807—Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1882)

Music: Calkin, LM (88. 88), John Baptiste Calkin (1827-1905), 1872

Please sit.

Eighth Reading

The Visit of the Wise Men

read by Peter Bingham

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

— *Matthew 2: 1-12*

The choir sings

March of the Three Kings

This highway beheld at break of day
three eastern kings go by upon their journey.
This highway beheld at break of day
three eastern kings go by in rich array.
With courage high all their guards passed by,
their knights at arms with the squires and the pages.
With courage high all their guards passed by,
with gilded armor shining like the sky.

Wondering then, I watched the mighty men,
I stood amazed as all the knights were passing.
Wondering then, I watched the mighty men,
and as they passed I followed them again.
They journeyed far to the guiding star
that shone where Jesus was lying in a manger.
And far away where the Christ child lay
they found the shepherds come to watch and pray.

Gaspard old had brought a gift of gold.
He said, "My Lord, you art the King of Glory."
Gaspard old gave Christ his gift of gold,
and that this Child would conquer death, he told.
Then incense sweet at the Christ child's feet
King Melchior placed, saying, "Thou are God of armies.
Although he lies here in humble guise,
this little Child is God of earth and skies."

"You will die; for you, my Lord, I cry,"
wept Balthazar, his gifts of myrrh presenting
"You will die, and in a tomb will lie,
for on a cross you will be lifted high."
All we today to the Child must pray,
who came to earth with his gifts of peace and blessing,
to him we pray, and our homage pay
and with the kings we march along the way.

Words: Old Provençal carol (*La Marche Des Rois Mages*), translator unknown, before 1915
Music: *March of the Three Kings*, attr. Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687), arr. Georges Bizet (1838-1875), adapt. Hugh Keyte & Andrew Parrott

Ninth Reading

Rejoice in the Lord always

read by the Rev'd Christopher Worthley

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

— *Philippians 4:4-9*

Please stand as you are able.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-ceive her King;
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa-vior reigns; let all their songs em-ploy,
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the ground;
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove

let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room, and heaven and na-ture sing,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re-peat the sound-ing joy,
 he comes to make his bless-ings flow far as the curse is found,
 the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness, and won-ders of his love,

1. and heaven and na -
2. re - peat the sound
3. far as the curse
4. and won - ders of

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and heaven and na-ture sing.
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

ture sing, and heaven and na-ture sing
 ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing joy,
 is found, far as the curse is found,
 his love, and won-ders of his love,

The Hymnal 1982 – #100 “Joy to the world!” Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.;
 Music: *Antioch*, CM with repeat, Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Collect

Officiant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Officiant

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

Christmas Blessing

Officiant May God, who sent the Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May God, who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King! Peace on earth and
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord; late in time be -
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled! Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth. Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

join the tri - umph of the skies; with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in
hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em -
light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born

Beth - le - hem!
man - u - el! Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
Prince of Peace!

Postlude

Toccata on *Antioch*

music: Craig Phillips (b. 1961),
after George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Thank you for worshiping with us this afternoon. We hope that you will consider returning for any of our upcoming Christmas liturgies:

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December

5PM Child-Friendly Eucharist (*with Christmas message from the Bishop of Maine*)

10PM Festal Eucharist (*the Bishop of Maine presiding*)

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December

10:00AM Holy Eucharist (*with organ music and Christmas carols, the Bishop of Maine presiding*)

The First Sunday after Christmas: 29 December

7:30AM Holy Eucharist (*spoken*)

10:00AM Holy Eucharist (*with organ music and Christmas carols*)

5:15PM Contemplative Eucharist with music

Epiphany Sunday: 5 January

7:30AM Holy Eucharist (*spoken*)

10:00AM Holy Eucharist (*with choir, followed by Christmas caroling and refreshments to mark the Twelfth Day of Christmas*)

5:15PM Contemplative Eucharist with music



The Cathedral Church of St. Luke

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Vestry Members

Class of 2025

Dan McDonald, Catherine Hyde

Class of 2026

Nancy Brain, Jamie Moore, Randi Hogan

Class of 2027

Stanley Kuziel, Eleanor Roberts, Mary Linneman

Join Us for Christmas at St. Luke's Cathedral



Worship Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Family Service
with the Bishop of Maine | 5pm

Candlelit Christmas Service
with the Bishop of Maine | 10pm
(*prelude with organ and brass at 9:30pm*)

Christmas Day Service | 10am

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