

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 5PM



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

680 CALDER | DOWNTOWN BEAUMONT



ORGAN PRELUDES

Two Settings of "Savior of the Nations, Come!"
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
"In Dulci Jubilo"

Mr. Jordan A. Williams, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) and J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Craig Phillips (b. 1961)
Harald Rohlig (1926-2014)

HANDBELL PRELUDES

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"
"Gloria"

Mrs. Genevieve Brassard, *Assistant Director of Music*
Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)
Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Your presence blesses us, and we pray that your worship and time with us will be a blessing to you. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a longtime member, or somewhere in between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, and praise the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world.

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse, *Rector*

(Please stand as the hymn is introduced. Stanza 1 is sung as a solo; all then join in singing.)

Stanza 1 – Solo: Ali Corcoran

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.

Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929); Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.**THE BIDDING PRAYER** (*All remain standing.*)

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse, Rector

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, 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, to see 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 onto 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 for his Church, 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 and the oppressed; 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. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

(Spoken by all.)

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 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.*

(The Congregation may be seated.)

THE INVITATORY

“The Holly and the Ivy”

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

Olivia Hayes & Carrie Wilson, Soloists

Refrain: O, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour. *Refrain*

Caroline Barnett & Molly Hilton, Soloists

Traditional carol, arr. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good. *Refrain*

Tim Foster & Brandon Rhodes, Soloists

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn. *Refrain*

Ali Corcoran & Genevieve Brassard, Soloists

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all. *Refrain*

Thomas Doyle & Seth Thibodeau, Soloists

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

The Rev. Rohani Weger

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of a woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

ANTHEM "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

David Ashley White (b. 1944)

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 every nation,
joy of every 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.

THE SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22: 15-18

The Rev. Christopher Hilton

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

ANTHEM "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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 therein, 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.

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Rev. Margaret Light

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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.
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.

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.

Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982; Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.

THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

The Rev. Brandon McGinnis

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; 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.

ANTHEM "Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming"

arr. Douglas B. King (b. 1953)

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 flower bright,
 Amid the cold of winter
 When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 The Rose I have in mind:
 With Mary we behold it,
 The virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright
 She bore to us a Savior
 When half-spent was the night.

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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." 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.

HYMN "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" (Please stand and join in singing as indicated.)

Hymnal 265

Stanza 1 – Congregation and Choir

Stanza 3 – Solo (Molly Hilton)

Stanza 2 – Female voices only

Stanza 4 – Congregation and Choir

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

ANTHEM "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Genevieve Brassard & Tim Foster, Soloists

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.

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 – Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
 a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
 Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
 the ox and ass and camel which adore.

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. ~ Christina Rossetti

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

Refrain
No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English Carol, 18th cent.
Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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.

ANTHEM "Love came down at Christmas"

John Rutter (b. 1944)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign. ~ Christina Rossetti

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1-14

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse, Rector

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. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

John Gardner (1917-2011)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance.

Refrain: Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love, this have I done for my true love.

Thus was I born of a Virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to human nature, to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor, this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain*

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN “Hark! the herald angels sing” (*All stand and join in singing.*)

Hymnal 87



1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,
Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.
Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De-i-ty.
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

ORGAN POSTLUDE “Toccata on Antioch”

Craig Phillips

Please be seated for the Postlude or depart quietly after the Choir leaves the church.

A festive reception follows in the Cloister. Please join us!

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SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Christopher Hilton, *Curate*

The Rev. Keith Giblin, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Tracie Middleton, *Deacon*

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ACOLYTES

Brianna Jarrell

Sophia Jarrell

Tommy McClenny

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST

A family service featuring Children's Sermon and beautiful music with Choirs and Organ.
Nursery provided. Livestreamed.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 7PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST

A joyous, festival service with Parish Choir and Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10AM CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST

A reflective, spoken service to celebrate Jesus' birth.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:30AM CHRISTMAS CAROLS & HOLY EUCHARIST

End the year at St. Mark's with your favorite carols!



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