

# ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | NOVEMBER 30, 2025 – 5:00PM

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PRELUDE

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 659 – J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)



## RESPONSORY

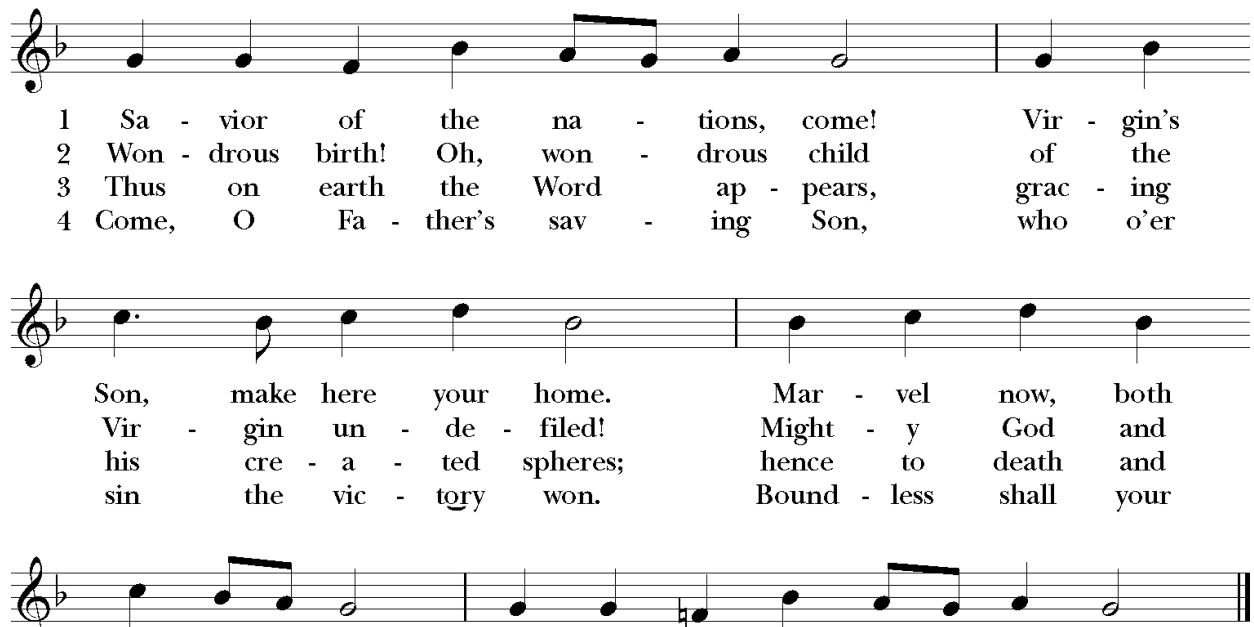
*Please stand as the bell sounds. The Choir begins the Responsory from the Lady Chapel.*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Words: Matins Responsory for the First Sunday of Advent  
Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1514-1594)

## HYMN IN PROCESSION *standing, sung by all*

*Hymn 54*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)  
Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from Erfurt Enchiridia, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

## THE BIDDING

Dear People of God: In this season of Advent, it is our joy to prepare ourselves once more for the coming of Christ. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose as we look forward to the yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world: for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of all people of faith and good will throughout the world, and especially in this city.

Let us pray:

O God of light inaccessible, enfold the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, and all who have lost faith. We join in prayer with the whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, with whom, we are made one for evermore, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON *seated*

*Genesis 3:1-5*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM *seated, sung by the Choir*

### Jesus Christ the apple tree

*Elizabeth Poston (1905 - 1987)*  
*Words: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Poe*

The tree of life my soul hath seen  
Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree

I'm weary with my former toil  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree

For happiness I long have sought  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree

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 for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM      *sung by the Choir*

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming**

*Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)*  
*Translation: Theodore Baker (1851 – 1934)*

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 men a Savior  
When half-spent was the night.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

CAROL *standing, sung by all*

Hymn 65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



*Refrain*  
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

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 the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by these 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM     *seated, sung by the Choir*

### Hymn to the Virgin

*Benjamin Britten (b. 1900-1976)*

Of one that is so fair and bright  
*Velut maris stella*  
 Brighter than the day is light  
*Parens et puella*  
 I cry to thee, thou see to me  
 Lady, pray thy Son for me  
*Tam pia*  
 That I may come to thee  
*Maria!*

Lady, flow'r of everything  
*Rosa sine spina*  
 Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King  
*Gratia divina*  
 Of all thou bear'st the prize  
 Lady, queen of paradise  
*Electa*  
 Maid mild, mother  
*Es Effecta.*

All this world was forlorn  
*Eva peccatrice*  
 Till our Lord was y-born  
*De te genetrice*  
 With ave it went away  
 Darkest night, and comes the day  
*Salutis*  
 The well springeth out of thee  
*Virtutis.*



Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*seated, sung by the Choir*

**Morning Trumpet**

*Denise Foster Kimble (b. 1954)  
The Sacred Harp*

O when shall I see Jesus and reign with him  
above? And shall hear the trumpet sound in that  
morning; And from the flowing fountain, drink  
everlasting love? And shall hear the trumpet  
sound in that morning.

His promises are faithful and a righteous crown  
he'll give When I hear the trumpet sound in that  
morning. And all his valiant soldiers eternally  
shall live, And hear the trumpet sound in that  
morning.

O shout glory! I shall mount above the skies  
when I hear that trumpet sound in that  
morning.

O shout glory! I shall mount above the skies  
when I hear that trumpet sound in that  
morning.

When shall I be delivered from this vain world  
of sin, And shall hear the trumpet sound in that  
morning? And with my blessed Jesus, drink  
endless pleasures in, And shall hear the trumpet  
sound in that morning?

O shout glory! I shall mount above the skies  
when I hear that trumpet sound in that  
morning.

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM     *seated, sung by the Choir*

**E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come**

*Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

Peace 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 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!

RESPONSORY *standing, sung by the Choir*

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed.  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Words: Vesper Responsory for the First Sunday of Advent  
Music: Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina (1514-1594)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:  
*chanted by all on one note; the Choir will add harmonies*

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.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who 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 for ever. Amen.

THE VERSICLE & RESPONSE

*Officiant:*



We wait for thy loving kind - ness, O Lord:

*People:*



In the midst of thy tem - ple.

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

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### Supporting the Ministry of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is fully supported by the contributions of its members and friends.  
Visit the address below or click on the QR code to learn more about  
the opportunities to give and to make a one-time or sustaining gift  
to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place:



*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*

**Thank You!**

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## ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

### This is the Record of John

*Orlando Gibbons (1583 – 1625)  
Matthew Newhouse, Tenor*

This is the record of John,  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from  
Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he  
confessed and denied not, and said plainly,  
I am not the Christ.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that  
we may give an answer unto them that sent us.  
What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am  
the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Make straight the way of the Lord.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art  
thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the  
prophet? And he answered, No.

## THE BLESSING *standing*

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Source of all Being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing - swell the tri - umph of his  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: *Helm*sley, Thomas Augustine Arne (1710–1778)

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ – Andrew Carter

*All are invited to a festive reception following the service at the rear of the church.*



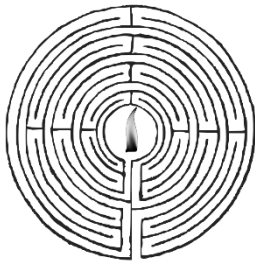
# Messiah Sing Along

A Chance to Sing Part One of Handel's Messiah

*Saturday, December 13,*

*2:30pm Rehearsal, 5pm Performance*

Scan the QR code to register to be part of a pickup choir that will perform Messiah. Singers of ALL ages and abilities are welcome



## Advent Gathering

A Celtic-themed evening of nourishment and reflection

*Tuesday, December 9, 6:00 – 8:30pm*

*Come and enjoy a labyrinth walk, an outdoor fire, a simple supper with an Advent-themed conversation, concluding with candlelit evening worship.*

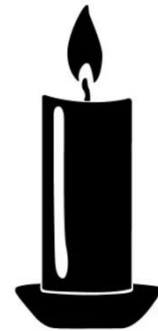
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## Light in the Darkness

A service of reflection and healing  
for those who find the holiday season difficult

*Tuesday, December 16, at 7pm  
in the Lady Chapel*

*This prayer service is offered especially for those for whom loss of a loved one, or other personal grieving makes the holiday season difficult. There will be an opportunity for healing prayer and quiet reflection, in the context of readings and music.*



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## Christmas Lessons and Carols

A joyous service of song anticipating Christmas,  
with a festive reception,  
celebrated with Christ Church,  
our sister Episcopal church in Norwalk

*Sunday, December 21, at 3:30pm*

Christ Church

2 Emerson Street, East Norwalk, CT 06855

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ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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