



Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. — December 24, 2020

Welcome

We welcome everyone to digital St. James this morning. Whether you are joining us via Zoom, on our website or on Facebook, we are delighted that you are here with us.

The Service is outlined from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). If you don't have a prayer book at home, you can find one here: <https://www.bcponline.org/>

Prelude

Away in a Manger
The First Noel
What Child is This
Steve Wogaman – Carriloneur
Featuring Pictures from members of St. James

Welcome

Hymn 83

O Come all Ye Faithful (verse 1, 2, 5)
Soloist: Sarah Carlson

Adeste fideles, Wade

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
Refrain

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

The First Lesson

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Geistliches Wiegenlied

Johannes Brahms

Caitlin Lynch, soprano; Caitlyn Lynch, viola; Tian Tain, piano

The Second Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

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.'

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife 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.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem 112

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 1, 2, 4)
Soloist: Sara Carlson

Cranham, Holst

In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, 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 midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

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.

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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 people 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 people are 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.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Noel, Noel A Boy is Born

Natalie Sleeth

Soloist: Sara Carlson

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Soloist: Lauri Christianson

The Christmas Pageant: We Are Those Who Dream

A Reflection

The Rev. Josh Hoover

Anthem

O Holy Night
Soloist: Christopher Peters

The Prayers of the People

In peace, on this holy night, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

O God, the creator of all that is, we give thanks that you have brought your light into the world, reveal that light in hospital wards and funeral homes, in refugee camps and on battle grounds.

Help us to share your light with those who need your loving presence.

Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and among all the nations of the world.

Bless us and make us a blessing to the world.

We pray for all those gathered here this night to celebrate the coming of God into the world; help us remember that your story is more than a stable and manger, but also includes the cross and grave.

May we, like Mary, ponder what your coming means and how we can follow and be inspired by your teachings.

Almighty and merciful God, we remember before you the poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, those in prison, those struggling with addiction, those who have lost their jobs, and all who have none to care for them. We pray for those who are sick and those who are anxious about what tomorrow may bring.

We ask you to give hope and comfort to all who are broken in body or spirit.

O Lord, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer, remembering especially those persons in whose memory the flowers are given tonight: Grant them your peace.

May you cradle them in your arms, as Mary cradled the Christ child in her arms.

We ask you to disturb us Lord, when we are too-well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to shore. Disturb us Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; when having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim. Stir us Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Christmas Collect

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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn 111

Silent Night
Soloist: Sarah

Reinecke

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

The Blessing

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his 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. Amen. May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen. May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen. 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.

Hymn 100

Joy to the World (verse 1, 3, 4)

Antioch, Handel

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In thee is gladness

J. S. Bach



This Sunday Worship is at 11:00 AM

Reminder that there will be no service from St. James on Sunday, December 27th.

The whole diocese is invited to celebrate the first Sunday of Christmas together on a special zoom service from the Cathedral. The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan, will be our special guest at this service.

Join using the following Zoom link:

<https://edomi-org.zoom.us/j/84289720152?pwd=UkdadjN2VWpaUWoyeFBwd0lwK3NPQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 8972 0152

Passcode: 4800706

Or, call 312-626-6799, Then enter Meeting ID: 842 897 20152#

We encourage you to join us in the Zoom meeting, however if you are unable to,
you can also watch the livestream on the Diocesan Facebook, and website.

St. James Episcopal Church

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#) and via [Zoom](#)

Weekdays Morning Prayer 8:00 a.m. on [Facebook](#)

Weekdays Compline 8:00 p.m. on [Zoom](#)

The Rev. Joshua A. Hoover, Rector

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