

A Festival of Lessons and Carols



**The Christ Church Cathedral Choir
and Senior Choristers**

December 14, 2025

*Cathedral Parish of the
Diocese of Tennessee (Episcopal)*

Live God's Love

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Before the procession

As the bell tolls the hour, the Choir sings from the rear of the Nave.

Matin Responsory

Giovanni da Palestrina
(c1525-1594)

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 be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

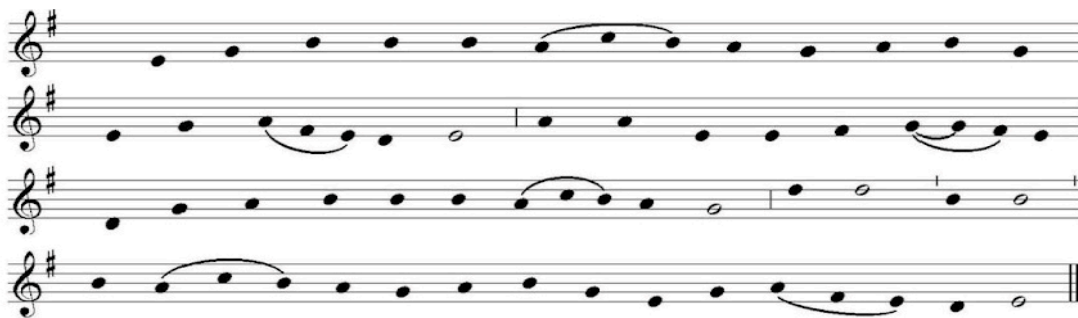
*From the First Responsory of Advent Sunday
in the Office of Matins*

*Please stand at the Procession as you are able.
Please join in singing the congregational hymns.*

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel
Descant: Michael Velting



O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

The Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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 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 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: Our Father...

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of all the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated for the reading of the lessons and the singing of the carols.

First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

Read by the Director of Youth Ministries
Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Carol

Adam lay ybounden

Thomas LaVoy
(b. 1990)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,
ne had never our lady abeen heavené queen.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.

Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

Anonymous, c. 1400

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Read by a Cathedral Acolyte
The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

Carol

In the stillness

Sally Beamish
(b. 1956)

In the stillness of a church where candles glow,
in the softness of a fall of fresh white snow,
in the brightness of the stars that shine this night,
in the calmness of a pool of healing light.

In the clearness of a choir that softly sings,
in the oneness of a hush of angels' wings,
in the mildness of a night by stable bare,
in the quietness of a lull near cradle fair.

There's a patience as we wait for a new morn,
And the presence of a child soon to be born.

Katrina Shepherd

Hymn

St. Stephen

The King shall come when morning dawns *Descant: Michael Velting*



The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that e'er shall last;

Not, as of old, a little child,
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

and let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-6

Read by a Cathedral Senior Chorister
The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

Carol

Advent Calendar

Philip Ledger
(1937-2012)

He will come like last leaf's fall. He will come.

One night when the November wind has flayed the trees to bone,
and earth waves choking on the mould, the soft shroud's folding,
he will come like frost. He will come.

One morning when the shrinking earth opens on mist,
to find itself arrested in the net of alien, sword-set beauty,
he will come like dark. He will come.

One evening when the bursting red December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed fields of sky,
he will come like crying in the night,
like breaking as the earth writhes to toss him free.

He will come like child.

Rowan Williams

Hymn

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

Descant: Lois G. Fyfe



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 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
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 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
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 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!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 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.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Fourth Lesson

Read by a Cathedral Usher
The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-4

Carol

People, look east

Besancon Carol Tune
arr. June Nixon
(b. 1942)

People, look east, the time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon

Fifth Lesson

Read by a member of the Cathedral Choir
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38

Carol

The angel Gabriel

Philip Moore
(b. 1943)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favoured lady; Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
most highly favoured lady; Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould

Sixth Lesson

Read by a Cathedral Sacristan
St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-23

Carol

A virgin most pure

Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell,
hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell;
to be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,
which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in.

*Aye, and therefore be merry, rejoice, and be you merry;
set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Savior was born at this tide.*

In Bethlehem Jewry a city there was,
where Joseph and Mary together did pass,
and there to be taxed with many one mo,
for Caesar commanded the same should be so.

But when they had entered the city so fair,
a number of people so mighty was there,
that Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
could find in the inn there no lodging at all.

Then they were constrained in a stable to lie,
where horses and asses they used for to tie;
their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
but against the next morning our Savior was born.

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

Traditional English carol

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol

My Lord has come

Will Todd

(b. 1970)

Shepherds, called by angels,
called by love and angels;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.

Sages, searching for stars,
searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Will Todd

Hymn

Angels from the realms of glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
Refrain

Eighth Lesson

Read by a member of the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance

Matthew 2:1-12*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.***Carol**

James Whitbourn

The Magi's Dream

(1963-2024)

Night has come to Bethlehem,
the family is asleep,
exhausted by the wonders seen,
the news outrageous, deep.

That I may come and worship him.

Ox and ass have closed their eyes,
their ears no hear no sound.
Shepherds have gone back to their flocks,
the mouse still noses around.

That I may come and worship him.

Kings have left for their distant lands,
fractious camels moan.
At a desert spring they make their farewells,
it's a mighty way to home.

That I may come and worship him.

Later that night their heads are filled
with a dream-drenched holy ray.
'Do not return to Herod the king,
go back another way.'

That I may come and worship him.

And so our Christ is saved from death,
his mission to complete,
to change the world by selfless love,
Satan's legions to beat.

*Robert Tear**The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson.***Ninth Lesson**

Read by a Cathedral Lay Reader

John 1:1-14*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.**The congregation is seated following the Ninth Lesson.***Carol**

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Love came down

(b. 1971)

Love came down, O love came down.

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 came down, O love came down.**Love came down, O love came down.*

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.

*Love came down at Christmas.**Christina Rossetti*

Please stand.

The Vesper Responsory

Officiant: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;

People: **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People: **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.**

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A moment of silence.

The Collect

Officiant: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

People: **In the midst of thy temple.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

The First Nowell

English traditional carol
arr. David Willcocks



The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those wise men three
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offer'd there in his presence
their gold, myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Please remain in place until the Procession has departed the Nave.

You are invited to join the choirs and clergy for a reception in the Entry Hall.

In the stillness, composed by Sally Beamish, is a gift to the Cathedral Music Library, given to the glory of God and memory of their parents, the Rt. Rev. Duncan Montgomery Gray, Jr. and Ruth Spivey Gray, and George McMurry Clark, Jr. and Carole Cole Clark, by Shelton and Catherine Clark.

The Magi's dream, composed by James Whitbourn, is a gift to the Cathedral Music Library, given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Cathedral musicians, by Lisa Barry.

Love came down, composed by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, is a gift to the Cathedral Music Library, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Grace and Salvatore Silvestri, by Kelly Corcoran and Stella Carter.

Gifts for Christmas music have been given to the glory of God and

and in memory of his parents, Jessie Bradshaw Lane and Herman King Lane, by Jere Lane

and in thanksgiving for Ashton and Matthew, by Meg and Sam Bessey

and in thanksgiving for the baptism of Tyler Goetz, and for the joy and love Canon Anna Russell

Friedman brings to our congregation, by Katy Varney and Dave Goetz

and in thanksgiving and love for her children, Charles, Gabrielle, Nicoya, and her friend Bo;
grandchildren, Chioh and Rena; grand pups Jupiter, Venus, and Luna Mai, by Anzora Lee-Starks

by Sophia Severino

by Chuck Sullivan

The Cathedral Senior Choristers

Emery Fritz
Eli Howard
Emmie Reynolds
Lee Tureau
Bridget Ward
Maggie Ward
Sarah Ward
Kate Yarbro
Crockett Zieher

The Cathedral Choir

Soprano

Katie Almasy
Sandra Cohron
Kelly Corcoran*
Emy Gardner °
Rachel Martin
Marlayna Maynard*
Terri Richter
Mary Ward

Alto

Lisa Barry
Catherine Clark
Hannah Fleming-Sarkar
Ginny Griffith
Katie Linzmaier
Holli Harrison
Linda McFadyen Ketchum
Margaret Monteverde
MaryLee Perkins

Bass

Jackson Hasty
James Masanotti
Ryan Mason
Jason Peterson *
Robert Quittmeyer *
Eric Spivey
Jack Sprinkle
Eric Wiuff

Tenor

John Manson
Jared Morrison
Robert Richardson
Charlie Ward

Canon Dr. Michael Velting, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Dr. Peter Rogahn, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

* Soloist in *Matin Responsory*

° Soloist in *The angel Gabriel*

Readers

The Bidding Prayer	The Very Reverend Serena Sides <i>Dean and Rector</i>
The First Reader	Emily Berry <i>The Cathedral Director of Youth Ministries</i>
The Second Reader	George Sprinkle <i>A Cathedral Acolyte</i>
The Third Reader	Emmie Reynolds <i>A Cathedral Senior Chorister</i>
The Fourth Reader	Joseph Watson <i>A Cathedral Usher</i>
The Fifth Reader	Hannah Fleming-Sarkar <i>A member of the Cathedral Choir</i>
The Sixth Reader	Matthew Kenny <i>A Cathedral Sacristan</i>
The Seventh Reader	Rebecca Collins <i>The head of the Cathedral Parish Life Commission</i>
The Eighth Reader	David Paine <i>A representative the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance</i>
The Ninth Reader	David Coe <i>A Cathedral Lay Reader</i>
The Closing Prayers	The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt <i>The Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee</i>

Officiant

The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, *Bishop of Tennessee*

Assisting

The Very Reverend Serena Sides, *Dean and Rector*

The Reverend Canon Joseph B. Howard II, *Canon to the Ordinary*

The Reverend Canon Madeleine Rebouché, *Canon and Associate Rector for Outreach and Formation*

The Reverend Richard K. Wineland, *Associate Rector for Evangelism and Parish Life*

The Reverend Mary McCarthy, *Deacon*

Musicians

Canon Dr. Michael Velting, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Dr. Peter Rogahn, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

The Cathedral Choir and Senior Choristers

Vergers

Mary Margaret Sprinkle, Jonathan Sprinkle

Thurifer

Janetta Fleming

Ushers

John Bridges, Alex Joyce, Ginny McCoy, Joseph Watson



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A Center for the Community of the Cross of Nails

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