

ST. JOHN'S
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PLYMOUTH



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31, 2017

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A service of Lessons and Carols has Bible readings (or lessons), that tell the Christmas story, with one or two carols between each lesson. Each year at Christmastime churches around the globe offer this service; this year at St. John's we offer the Festival of Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday after Christmas, or the "Seventh Day of Christmas."

The service was first created and performed at the Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, UK in 1880. The idea travelled around the UK and became a popular service to hold on Christmas Eve. However, it was made very famous by the choir from King's College, Cambridge. The Service was first performed at King's College in 1918 as a way of the college celebrating the end of the First World War. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI, wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. In 1919 he changed the opening hymn/carol to be 'Once in Royal David's City' and set the main order and structure of the lessons/readings as it still is today. Now, famously, the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' at King's College is sung by a single boy chorister (or treble). Several choristers train to perform the solo, but the boy who will sing it is only told a couple of minutes before the service starts, so he can't get too nervous!

The King's College Festival of Lessons and Carols is held each year at 3:00 pm (UK time) on Christmas Eve, and broadcast live on BBC Radio and radio stations around the world. It was first broadcast live in 1928, and has been broadcast every year since then, except for 1930. The first U.S. broadcast was in 1979.

Throughout this service we invite you to join heartily in the singing of the carols, which can be found in the blue hymnal in the pew rack. Please note that select verses will be sung for most of the carols, as indicated in this service guide. We pray that you are having a blessed Twelve Days of Christmas, and we give thanks that you are with us on this seventh day!

+ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +

PRELUDE

CAROL: HYMNAL #102 vs. 1, 2, & 6

Once in Royal David's City

BIDDING PRAYER

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL: HYMNAL #81, vs. 1 & 2

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

CAROL: HYMNAL #115, vs. 1

What Child Is This?

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL: HYMNAL #101, vs. 1 & 2

Away in a Manger

LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

CAROL: HYMNAL #111, vs. 1 - 3

Silent Night

LESSON *(children are invited to come forward)*

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL: HYMNAL #128, vs. 1 & 5

We Three Kings

LESSON

John 1: 1-14

CAROL: HYMNAL #82, vs. 1

Of the Father's Love Begotten

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

+ THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE +

THE OFFERTORY

Steven Brancaleone, *pianist*

PRESENTATION HYMN: HYMNAL 99, vs. 1

Go Tell It On the Mountain

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and God of might. Heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
 high - est! Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger for God are welcomed to the Lord's supper. Please remain seated until an usher invites your row forward.

To receive the bread please put your hands together palms up in front of you. Then either eat the bread and drink directly from the cup of wine, or allow the server with the wine to dip the bread in the wine and place it in your mouth. Gluten-free wafers are available in a separate bowl. Please point to them if this is your preference.

If you are unable to come forward and wish to have Communion brought to you, please inform an usher.

COMMUNION CAROLS:

HYMNAL 79, vs. 1-3

HYMNAL 112, vs. 1-4

HYMNAL 89, vs. 1-4

*O' Little Town of Bethlehem
In the Bleak Midwinter
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING CAROL: HYMNAL 100, vs. 1-4

Joy to the World!

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of God's gift of love.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!



FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16

Pastor Dana
Runeberg

Liz Calver-Hickman

Phyllis Begamini

Jayne Watson