

# CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



**A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**  
**December 18, 2022**  
**10:30 a.m.**

## CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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### *Merry Christmas!*

We are so glad you are with us this morning!

Services of Lessons and Carols began in Truro, England in 1880 and was reintroduced at King's College Cambridge in 1918. Now the service is broadcast around the world on Christmas Eve. This special service intertwines the story of Christ's birth with hymns and special seasonal music.

We hope that your time with us will be encouraging and that you visit us again soon. Our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm.

Blessings in Jesus!  
Fr. Stace+  
*and the community of Epiphany*

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)—Sunday 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist (Rite II)—Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer via Zoom  
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

*Please be seated during readings and choral singing and stand if you are able during congregational hymns. Congregational responses are in bold.*

**Children's Sunday School**      *Away in a Manger*

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

**Processional Hymn**      *Once In Royal David's City*

Hymn 102

## **Bidding Prayer**

*Lector*      Beloved in Christ, as we gather this morning, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 this Holy Child; and let us make this Nave and Sanctuary glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in our country the United States of America, and the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, and in the city of Denver:

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 cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we evermore are one.

*Lector* These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

**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,  
                  forever and ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

**Instrumental**

*In Excelsis Deo*

(Ellis)

**FIRST LESSON**

*Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19*

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

*Lector* And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And he said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And the LORD God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." And the LORD God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

And unto Adam he said, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

*Celebrant* With perpetual benediction may the Father Everlasting bless us. **Amen.**

**Solo**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**SECOND LESSON**

*Genesis 22: 15–18*

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

*Lector*

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

*Celebrant* God, the Son of God, vouchsafe to bless and aid us. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 79

**THIRD LESSON**

*Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7*

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

*Lector*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his

government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

*Celebrant* May the grace of the Holy Spirit enlighten us heart and body. **Amen.**

**Solo**

*Sans Day Carol*

(Rutter)

<sup>1</sup> Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,  
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

<sup>2</sup> Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

<sup>3</sup> Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,  
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

<sup>4</sup> Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,  
And Mary bore Jesus who rose from the dead,  
And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,  
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.  
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

**FOURTH LESSON**

*Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9*

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

*Lector*

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

*Celebrant* The Almighty Lord bless us with his grace. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Hymn 89

**FIFTH LESSON**

*Luke 1: 26–35; 38*

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*Lector* And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant* Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Solo**

*Ave Maria*

(Arcadelt, Ed. Batastini)

**SIXTH LESSON**

*Luke 2: 1, 3–7*

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

*Lector* And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Celebrant* By the words of God's Gospel be our sins blotted out. **Amen.**

**Solo**

*Do You Hear What I Hear?*

**Hymn**

*Hark the Herald Angel Sing*

Hymn 87

**SEVENTH LESSON**

*Luke 2: 8–16*

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

*Lector* And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into

heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

*Celebrant* Creator of all things give us your blessing now and forevermore. **Amen.**

**Solo** *Little Drummer Boy*

**EIGHTH LESSON** *Matthew 2: 1–12*  
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

*Lector* Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.” When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, “In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, “Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.” When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

*Celebrant* Unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

**Solo** *Dance of the Three Kings/ We Three Kings*

**NINTH LESSON**

*John 1: 1–14*

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

*Celebrant* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**All** **And with thy spirit.**

**Solo**

*O Magnum Mysterium*

(Lauridsen)

*O magnum mysterium*

*Et admirabile sacramentum*

*Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum*

*Jacentem in praesepio!*

*Beata Virgo, cujus viscera*

*Meruerunt portare*

*Dominum Christum*

*Alleluia*

O great mystery,

and wonderful sacrament,

that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVE SACRAMENT**



*We are a community of discipleship, healing and worship.  
We are committed to God, one another and  
the transformation of the world in Jesus Christ.*

## News

**2023 Pledge Cards Available**—Look for pledge cards in the commons to help the vestry plan Epiphany's operating budget for next year. Please return to the collection box or the church office.

**Year-End Giving**—Please note: According to IRS rules, contributions are effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the offering in January cannot be deducted in the previous year even if it is backdated. The one exception is for checks that are postmarked in 2022 even if it is not received by the church until 2023.

**Epiphany Celebration**—Our traditional pig roast is back! We will celebrate our church's name feast on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up link in the newsletter for ways to help out.

### *Advent & Christmas Events*

Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service	4:00pm Candlelight Service
Dec 25	Christmas Day/Sunday	10:30am service only
Jan 8	Epiphany Celebration!	Pig Roast Feast