

An Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols



The Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday 10 December 2023, 4:00 PM

Grace Episcopal Church
Hinsdale, Illinois

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH



Welcome to this beloved, living tradition at Grace Church. Your presence here is a gift to us, as we pray and sing our joyful expectation of Christ's coming. The Christian season of Advent is a wonderful time to cultivate "waiting" as a gift, an opportunity to be still, reflect, and more intentionally be present to those around us. May you be blessed with Christ, our Light, and share that Light with those around you, this day and always!

ABOUT THE SERVICE

The reading of scripture and singing of carols and hymns as a unique practice, before or close to Christmas, appears to have begun around 1878 at the Cathedral of Truro, England. The service was first formalized in 1880 by Edward Benson, Bishop of Truro (later Archbishop of Canterbury). A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was introduced on Christmas Eve of 1918, to King's College, Cambridge, by Dean Eric Milner-White, who further developed the service as we generally know it today.

The Festival relates the story of humanity: the Creation and Fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah—Christ, the Light of the World—as told by prophets of the Hebrew scriptures, and concludes with readings from the Gospels. The story is told in nine Bible readings, interspersed with carols, anthems, and hymns. The Advent Festival (and its Christmas version) has an even greater liturgical parallel in the Great Easter Vigil (also a service of readings and psalm responses), which announces the greatest celebration of the Christian faith: Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord.

We remember this year the life and work of Paul A. Nicholson with his sparkling and lively setting of the Basque carol, "Gabriel's Message." Paul was a highly esteemed musician in the Chicago area for decades, known especially for his substantial gifts in composing, vocal coaching, and accompaniment. "Gabriel's Message" was written in 1994 for his friends Paul McLean and Susan Liebell upon the birth of their first-born son, Eli McLean.

Later in the service, there will be a collection for the Music Ministry program of Grace Church. All contributions, no matter the amount, are meaningful! They help ensure that special occasions such as this Advent Lessons and Carols can continue with the joy and beauty you experience tonight. Thank you, in advance, for your generous contribution and prayerful support!

Finally, tonight's celebration is offered with joyful expectation and prayerfulness, but especially gratitude. The entire Grace Church community welcomes you with open hearts and a desire that you and yours be blessed with peace and wholeness.

After the service, all are warmly invited to the parish hall for a festive reception.

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Preludes on “Savior of the Nations, Come” (BWV 599, 659) J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE ADVENT RESPONSORY

G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594), adapt. Stephen Cleobury

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.

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?

The hymn is then sung by the choir, in procession.

HYMN “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Latin, 9th Century

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Please *stand* as you are able.

A BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once again 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 look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth 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 the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country and in this village.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name 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, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant Summing up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant The Almighty God bless us with 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.**

HYMN "An Advent Processional"

Don Pearson (b. 1959)

Refrain (*sung by all*)

O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el.
Re - joice! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Verses (*sung by choir*)

Come thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit thou art still.
The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to all displayed. **Refrain** (*by all*)

The virgin womb that burden gained with virgin honour all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.

Forth from his chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity,
A giant in two-fold substance one, rejoicing now his course to run. **Refrain** (*by all*)

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright and darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore. **Refrain** (*by all*)

All are seated.

THE LESSONS

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.

CAROL “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)
Stanza 4 setting: Eldon Balko (b. 1931)

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.

His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know and ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see in 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.

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.

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.

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."

CAROL "Adam Lay Ybounden"

Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, ne had never our Lady abeen heav'né queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

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.

CAROL “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” ES IST EIN ROS’, arr. Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

Lo, how rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as prophets long have sung,
it came a floweret 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.
Through God’s eternal will, she bore to us a Savior at midnight calm and still.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

After silence for reflection, all stand to sing the hymn.

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
 as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
 From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
 You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.
 We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
 We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
 There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.

MOTET *Canite tuba – Rorate cæli*

Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

*Canite tuba in Sion
 quia prope est dies Domini.
 Ecce venit, ad salvandum nos:
 erunt prava indirecta,
 et aspera in vias planas,
 veni Domine, et noli tardare.*

*Rorate cæli desuper
 et nubes pluant justum,
 aperiat terra et germinet Salvatorem.
 Ostende nobis, Domine misericordiam tuam
 et salutare tuum da nobis.
 Veni, Domine, et noli tardare.*

Blow the trumpet in Zion
 for the day of the Lord is near.
 Lo, he is coming to save us.
 The crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways plain.
 Come, Lord, and do not delay. (Joel 2:1a, d)
 Drop down ye heavens, from above,
 and let the skies pour down righteousness.
 Let the earth open and bring forth a Savior.
 Show us your mercy, O Lord,
 and grant us your salvation.
 Come, Lord, and do not delay. (Isaiah 45:8)

THE SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

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 the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek 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.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

ANTHEM “A Shoot Shall Come Forth”

Richard Horn (1938-2004)

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth.
Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,
for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life;
his waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be Love. *Then the lamb...*

He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place;
our lives shall be filled with his radiance as floodwaters cover the sea. *Then the lamb...*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

CAROL "People Look East" Besançon carol, arr. Barry Ferguson (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, today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People look East, and sing today: Love the Rose 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.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both

were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

After silence for reflection, all stand to sing the hymn.

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

FOREST GREEN



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
Choir 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to day.

All are seated.

THE NINTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-45

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 he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the

child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

ANTHEM A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright Brighter than the day is light, I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady, pray thy Son for me, That I may come to thee.	<i>Velut maris stella, parens et puella: tam pia, Maria!</i>
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All this world was forlorn Till our Lord was yborn With <i>ave</i> it went away Darkest night, and comes the day The well springeth out of thee.	<i>Eva peccatrice, de te genitrice. salutis; virtutis.</i>
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Lady, floweret of everything, Thou bare Jesu, heaven's King, Of all thou bearest the prize, Lady, queen of paradise Maid mild, mother <i>es effecta</i>	<i>Rosa sine spina, gratia divina: electa: effecta.</i>
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All stand.

THE VESPER RESPONSORY

G. P. da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)
adapt. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

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

All are seated.

WELCOME AND COLLECTION

A special offering is taken up which supports the Music Ministry of Grace Church.

God bless you in your generosity!

To give, please scan the QR code, and select "Music Ministry" from the drop-down menu. Thank you!



<http://www.gracehinsdale.org/give>

CAROL-ANTHEM "Gabriel's Message"

Paul Nicholson (1963-2023)

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 favored lady," *Gloria!*

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored 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 favored 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 favored lady," *Gloria!*

All stand for the prayers.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Officiant Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ;

give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Officiant Christ, who by his advent and incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing for the hymn.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - d'rest
3 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge show,
by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
hearts of hu - man-kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and teach us in her ways to go.
and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
and be thy - self our King of Peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Please join us in the Parish Hall for a reception!



We warmly invite you to these upcoming services at Grace Church!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24 December, 4:00 PM – Holy Eucharist with Children’s Pageant
Sunday 24 December, 10:00 PM – Holy Eucharist with Carols, Choir, and Harp

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25 December, 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 31 December, 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons and Carols

THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Sunday 7 January, 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist with choir and organ

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“An Advent Processional,” Text: St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397). Tr. J. M. Neale and others. Music: Donald Pearson (b. 1959), © 1992, Birnamwood Publications. “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” Text: German carol; st. 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet R. Kraut (1845-1925). Tune: ES IST EIN ROS’, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1599. “Blessed Be the God of Israel”, Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), © 1989, Hope Publishing Company. Tune: FOREST GREEN, English folk melody. “Savior of the Nations, Come” Text: Martin Luther (1483-1546), after St. Ambrose of Milan; trans. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524. Music reprinted under OneLicense.net, license # A-720489. The texts of the Lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

Cover art: Nicholas T. Markell (b. 1961)

*Welcome to the transformative power
of Christ's love;
if you're here, you belong!*



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY

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