

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Fairland Parish



1st Christmas: Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

1st Christmas: Lessons and Carols

The People stand. The Celebrant and LEM enter as all sing the following hymn

Once in royal David's city

Hymnal 1982 #102

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;

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where his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Celebrant

Beloved in Christ, be it in this Christmas season 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 church, dedicated to Mark, his first gospeler, 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 the land in which we live and the lands of our birth, and of the University and City of Cambridge in England, where this service was begun in a time of grief from war and contagion much like our own, and in the royal and religious Foundations made by King Henry VI of that realm, also in a time of strife:

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 none 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, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 8-15; 17-19

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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.”

And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it’,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Carol: Creator of the Stars of Night

Hymn #60

1. 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.
2. In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.
3. When this old world drew onward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary,
blameless mother mild.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

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.
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
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.

Carol: Savior of the nations, come

Hymn #54

1. Savior of the nations, come!
 Virgin's Son, make here your home.
 Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
 that the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
 Of the Virgin undefiled!
 Mighty God and Mary's son,
 eager now his race to run!
3. Thus on earth the word appears,
 gracing his created spheres;
 hence to death and hell descends,
 then the heavenly throne ascends.
4. Come, O Father's saving Son,
 who o'er sin the victory won.

Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ 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.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
⁹ 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!'
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ 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: Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymn #67

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.
3. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain:
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35; 38

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 have known no man?"

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." 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.

Carol: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came Hymn #265

1. 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!
2. "For know 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!

3. 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!

4. 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!

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was with child. While they were there, her time came. And she brought forth her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol: Of the Father's love begotten

Hymn #82

1. Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!
2. O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!
3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!
4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,

and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the LORD stood before them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were sore afraid. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace to those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the LORD has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol: Twas in the moon of wintertime **Hymn #114**

1. 'Twas in the moon of winter-time
when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead;

before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunter heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high: (*Refrain*)

3. The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory
on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. (*Refrain*)

4. O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy. (*Refrain*)

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-4; 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him not one thing came to be. What came to be in him was life, and that life is the light of all people. This light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol: Watchman, tell us of the night

Hymn #640

1. Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.
2. Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3. Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you, and with your spirit. Let us pray

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ, who by his 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Carol: “Joy to the World!,” vv.1,2, 4

Hymn #100

¹ 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.

² Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,¹
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nation prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

The LEM says

Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!
Let us go forth to love and serve the newborn Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Thanks be to God!

¹ Var. Watts’ original reads: “Let men their tongues employ,”

The Flowers on the altar were given today to the Glory of God by Olivia Lee in Thanksgiving for Raymond's 82nd Birthday.

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If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit on the pulpit side of the nave, behind the videographers.

Christmas Services

2nd Sunday after Christmas (1/2/21): 8:00 Holy Eucharist, Rite 1;
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite 2.

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Lee Mericle, Senior Warden * Rosanne Tingley, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website:

www.stmarksfairland.org * www.stmarks-silverspring.org

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you, and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

Art Photo Cover: attr. Fra Angelico (susp. Benozzo Gozzoli), *Nativity*, fresco in the Convento di San Marco, Firenze, cell #5; source:

<https://chiefwritingwolf.com/2013/12/25/nativity-in-the-italian-renaissance/#jp-carousel-11478>.