

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



Den Hirten wird die Geburt Christi verkündet.

Und der Engel sprach zu ihnen: fürchtet euch nicht, siehe, ich verkündige euch große Freude, die allem Volk widerfahren wird; denn euch ist heute der Heiland geboren, welcher ist Christus, der HERR, in der Stadt David.
Ev. Lucas. Cap. 2. v. 10. 11.

Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
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READERS

Jennifer Uttley

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Sharon Sapelak

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The Rev. Dr Preston Parsons

CHOIR

Sopranos

Julia Fraser

Barbara Lavergne

Cathleen Leone

Chloe Shantz

Claire Smith

Joscelyn Truscott

Altos

Andrea Balfour

Corinne Dutton

Debbie Sheach

Henriette Thompson

Tenors

James Brown

William Hutton

Basses

Daniel Chirilenco

Angus Sheach

Steven Strauss

Mohan Thomas

Bruce Wheatcroft

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dr Kenneth Hull

OFFICIANT

The Revd Dr Preston Parsons

The Church of St John the Evangelist, Kitchener
A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday 18 December 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Organ Prelude: Noël, prends garde

Guy Morançon

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Once in royal David's city

Verses 1 & 2 sung by the choir.

Verses 3 & 4 sung by all.

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.

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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in Heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

The Bidding Prayer

CAROL Sussex Carol

Trad., arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring—
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore. Amen.'

English trad.

FIRST LESSON

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

CAROL Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord

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

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

Anon., 15th century

SECOND LESSON

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

CAROL His voice as the sound of the dulcimer American trad.,
arr. Alfred V. Fedak

His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet
is heard through the shadows of death.
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet,
the air is perfumed with his breath.
His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow
that waters the garden of grace,
from which their salvation the Gentiles shall know
and bask in the smile of his face.

Love sits in his eyelids and scatters delight
through all the bright regions on high.
Their faces the cherubim veil in his sight,
and tremble with fullness of joy.
He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
and myriads wait for his word,
he speaks, and eternity, filled with his voice,
re-echoes the praise of her Lord.

Joseph Swain (1761-1796)

THIRD LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

CAROL This little babe

Benjamin Britten

This little babe, so few days old,
Is come to rife Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will by thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Robert Southwell (?1561-95)

FOURTH LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

HYMN Prepare the way, O Zion
Common Praise 102; congregation sings vv. 1 & 3.

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL No wind at the window Irish trad., arr. John L. Bell

No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face.
Be glad that you’re favoured and filled with God’s grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun,
and you are requested to mother God’s Son.

“This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”

No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, “Tell God I say ‘Yes.’”

John L. Bell, 1992

SIXTH LESSON

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN O little town of Bethlehem
Common Praise 121

CAROL Ding dong! merrily on high 16th c. French trad.

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below
let steeple bells be swungen,
And *io, io, io,*
by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.

G. R. Woodward

SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

HYMN While shepherds watched their flocks by night
Common Praise 139; congregation sings vv. 2, 4 & 6.

EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL Saw you never in the twilight?

Hal H. Hopson

Saw you never, in the twilight,
When the sun had left the skies,
Up in heav'n the clear stars shining
Through the gloom, like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men, watching,
Saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given,
And they followed it from far.

Heard you never of that story
How they crossed the desert wild,
Journey'd on by plain and mountain,
'Til they found the holy child?
How they open'd all their treasure,
Kneeling to that infant King;
Gave the gold and fragrant incense,
Gave the myrrh in offering?

Know you not that lowly baby
Was the bright and Morning Star?
He who came to light the Gentiles,
And the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, may seek his cradle;
There our heart's best treasures bring;
Love, and faith, and true devotion
For our Saviour, God, and King.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

CAROL Poor little Jesus

arr. John S. Dixon

O, poor little Jesus,
This world gonna break your heart.
There'll be no place to lay your head, my Lord.
O, poor little Jesus.

Oh, Mary she's the mother,
Oh, Mary, she bow down and cry.
For there's no place to lay his head, my Lord.
Oh, poor little Jesus.

Come down, all you holy angels,
Sing 'round him with your golden harps,
For someday he will die to save dis worl',
Oh, poor little Jesus.

Traditional Spiritual

The congregation stands for the ninth lesson.

NINTH LESSON

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

HYMN O come, all ye faithful
Common Praise 118, vv.1, 2, 4, 3 (note order of verses)

THE COLLECT AND BLESSING

HYMN Hark, the herald angels sing
Common Praise 138

Organ Postlude: In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach

Christmas Service Dates

Dec 24, 4p.m.	Christmas Eve: Family Communion
Dec 24, 7p.m.	Christmas Eve: Eucharist
Dec 24, 10p.m.	Christmas Eve: Choral Eucharist (Haydn's <i>Little Organ Mass</i>)
Dec 25, 10a.m.	Christmas Day

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies, you can contact the on-call pastor at 519-743-0228 ext. 6.

Rector	The Revd Dr Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com
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Rector's Warden	Marianne Mellinger
People's Warden	Debbie Sheach
Deputy Warden	Eleanor Brown