

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2024
EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.



PRELUDE

AT HALF AFTER SEVEN O’CLOCK

A Christmas Fantasia

Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Commissioned by the people of Grace Church in New York

The Order of Service

HYMN Once in royal David's city *(All stand for the hymn)*

IRBY

Descant by David V. Willcocks (1919-2015)

1. CHOIR

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.

5. ALL

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

2. ALL

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.

6. ALL

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;
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and 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 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 the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

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 hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one 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, 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, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. 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. Amen.

CAROL*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

1. Deep in the cold of winter,
 Darkness and silence were everywhere;
 Softly and clearly, there came through the
 stillness a wonderful sound to hear:
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a
 heavenly King.

2. Lost in awe and wonder,
 Doubting I asked what this sign might be:
 Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,
 A marvellous sight to see.
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a
 heavenly King.

*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
 'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.*

3. He comes down in peace, a child in humility,
 The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;
 Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,
 gold incense and myrrh.
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
 All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
 Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.

*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
 'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing.*

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15 *(Please be seated.)*

James Gomez
 Optimus, the Choir of Men and Boys

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

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. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been.
Ne had never our lady
A been heavené queen.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden
Written in their book.

Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!

Anon. 15th century

THE SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

Lily Dixon
Optima, the Girls' Choir

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

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN Angels we have heard on high *(To be sung by all, standing)* **GLORIA**

1. ANGELS we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

French carol, alt. by Earl Marlatt, 1937

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *(Please be seated.)*

Owen Boger
Senior Warden, Grace Church

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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. Thou has multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with the joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou has broken as on the day of Midian. 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, Counselor, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL Before the Marvel of this Night
Before the marvel of this night,
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light,
And with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
That fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

Awake the sleeping world with song,
This is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
In royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
A teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
Our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
Now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
That rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,
Sing love, sing God is love!

Jaroslav J. Vajda

THE FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

Douglas Evans
Junior Warden, Grace Church

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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 favoured lady, " Gloria!

"For known a Blessed Mother thou shalt be,
 All generations laud and honour thee,
 Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured 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 favoured 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 favoured lady, Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 *(Please be seated.)*

Dana Foote
 Staff Member, Grace Church School

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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 favored, 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 favor 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, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL I sing of a maiden

Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)

I syng of a mayden That is makeles,
king of alle kings to here sone che chees.
He cam also stille Ther his moder was
As dew in Aprylle, That fallyt on the gras.
He cam also stille To his modres bowr
As dew in Aprylle, That falleth on the flowr.
He cam also stille Ther his moder lay
As dew in Aprylle, That falleth on the spray.
Moder & mayden Was nevere noon but she:
Well may swich a lady Godes moder be.

Anonymus 14th Century

THE SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Ellen McElduff
Chair of the Flower Guild, Grace Church

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

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 this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 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 Judea, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is laying; Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now asleeping, Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping; Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now adozing, Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby! Is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby! *S. Baring-Gould*

THE SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20

Jason Slibeck
The Usher Guild, Grace Church

The Shepherds go unto the manger.

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. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Come leave your sheep,
Your ewes with lambs a-feeding,
O shepherds, hear
Our message of good cheer;
No longer weep;
The angels tidings heeding,
To Bethlem haste away!
Our Lord is born this happy day.

Ye sages three
Arrayed in royal splendour,
Your homage pay;
A king is born this day.
The star ye see
Its radiance must surrender
Before our Sun most bright;
Your gifts are precious in his sight.

He lieth there
Within a lowly manger;
An infant poor
He languisheth full sore.
God's loving care
Hath saved us all from danger
And brought us to his fold;
Now own his faithful love revealed of old.

Come Holy Ghost,
Of blessings source eternal,
Our souls inspire
With thy celestial fire;
The heav'nly host
Praise Christ the Lord supernal
And sing the peace on earth.

THE EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

The Rev. James H.B. Morton III
Assistant Rector

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea 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 Judea: 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, inquired 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) arr. Ivor Atkins

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travelers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
God, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo to Bethlehem
The kings are traveling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Peter Cornelius

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thy Word, Jesu,

Inly feeds us, Rightly leads us,

Life bestowing.

Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Philip Nicolai, Translation H.N. Bate

THE NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

The Rev. Julia Macy Offinger
Associate Rector

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
(The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson.)*

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 all people. 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 might believe through him. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every one 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 children 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.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN O come, all ye faithful (vs.1-3,6) *(To be sung by all, standing)*

ADESTE FIDELES
Descant by David V. Willcocks

1. O COME, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God,
Begotten, not created; *Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest; *Refrain*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

Latin, 18th cent.; Tr. Frederick Oakley and others

THE SERMON

The Reverend J. Donald Waring

THE PEACE

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AT THE OFFERTORY, CAROL

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem,

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born
King is come to bring us peace on earth,
and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?"

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born
King is come to bring us peace on earth,
and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was
lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
sleeping now at Bethlehem.

"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?"
"I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born
King is come to bring us peace on earth,
and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem?"

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King is
born this night in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.'

PRESENTATION HYMN (*Please stand to sing the hymn.*)

GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*
2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Refrain
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him,
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Refrain

W.C. Dix

THE COLLECT

Officiant *The Lord be with you.*
All **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant *Let us pray.*

(Please kneel)

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 Ghost, one God, world without end.
Amen. *(Remain kneeling)*

HYMN (*To be sung by all, kneeling*)

STILLE NACHT

1. SILENT night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Joseph Mohr

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill. And may the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend upon you this night, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

1. HARK! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Charles Wesley

POSTLUDE Choral Fantasy on In dulci jubilo, BWV 792

Johann Sebastian Bach

+ + +

Serving Tonight: The Choir of Men and Boys with The Girls' Choir;
Emma Slibeck, Joshua Fesi, *Acolytes*
Douglas Evans, Charlie Johnston, Jason Slibeck,
Sam Keany, Patrick McCullough, *Ushers*

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK (212) 254-2000 www.gracechurchnyc.org

The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Rector
The Rev. Julia Macy Offinger, Associate Rector
The Rev. James H.B. Morton III, Assistant Rector
The Very Rev. Harry E. Krauss, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Megan E. Sanders, Chaplain, Canterbury Downtown
Dr. Patrick Allen, Organist & Master of Choristers
Sandy Chu, Senior Accountant
Travis Brock Kennedy, Director of Development
Mickey Hawley, Parish Office Coordinator
Rhianna L. Murphy, Director of Finance & Administration

dwaring@gracechurchnyc.org
joffinger@gracechurchnyc.org
jmorton@gracechurchnyc.org
hkrauss@gracechurchnyc.org
msanders@dioceseny.org
pallen@gracechurchnyc.org
schu@gracechurchnyc.org
tkennedy@gracechurchnyc.org
mhawley@gracechurchnyc.org
rmurphy@gracechurchnyc.org

* * *

UPCOMING SERVICES

Tonight

**10:30 pm Festive Music for
Violin, Trumpet, & Organ**

A Christmas Fantasia by Malcolm Archer
Cynthia Roberts, John Thiessen, & Patrick Allen

11 pm Candlelight Choral Eucharist
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

December 25—Christmas Day

11 am Holy Eucharist with Carols
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

Sunday, January 12—The First Sunday after the Epiphany

4 pm Amahl & the Night Visitors
by Gian-Carlo Menotti. Choral Evensong.
The Adult Choir offers this dramatic sacred opera
in the context of evening prayer.

The Offerings at all Christmas Services will go to support the Vestry Fund for Outreach, which makes grants to address hunger, homelessness, and poverty in our city. In 2024, grants from the Fund supported the Episcopal Charities of New York (which supports 100 parish-based mission programs in our diocese), The Red Door Place (our food ministry partner here in the neighborhood which we volunteer at monthly), Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison (which boasts an amazing success rate in keeping released graduates from going back to prison or to the streets), and the Seamen’s Church Institute (which provides support and pastoral care to mariners, who are often economically vulnerable and isolated). Offerings can be made in the offering plate or through the church’s Venmo account. For Venmo, type “VFO” in the box that asks “What’s this for?” Please give generously this Christmas!



www.gracechurchnyc.org

**Christmas Flowers & Greens are Given
to the Glory of God and**

in Loving Memory of:

Harper Anderson	David Kuhns
Alice & Arthur Banks	Trish Lawrence
Ganesh Bharathsingh	Furio & Eulalie Marani
Vishnu Bharathsingh	Pierre Marani
Andrew Blane	Gordon Matheson
Janet Parmelee Bondurant	Doug McCoy
Harry Brant	William A. and Theresa B. McLeod
Kathy Brashear	Arthur LeRoy McLeod
Anise McDaniel Brock	Walton E. McLeod
Susan Pollard Browning	Wayne A. McLeod
Richard A. Browning	David L. Metcalfe
Jackson B. Browning, Sr.	Heidi Metzger
Armande C. Browning	The Rev. Dr. John Milburn
Florence Campbell	Olive Lang Murphy
James & Arrial Cogan	Christian Napolitano
Teresa Concepcion (on behalf of the Outreach Com- mittee)	Jean & Jim Parker
Teresa Conway	Elaine Payne
Joseph Costa	Gail Pound
The Rev. & Mrs. John Crocker, Jr.	Edward Powell
Mohanlal Dharampal	Josephine Premice
Kenneth Royce Day	William "Bill" Queen
Ralph W. Douglas	Eleanor Ray
Jerrold & Jean Evans	Billie Everett Ray
Timothy Fales	Frederick Jefferson Sanders, Jr.
Anne M. Foote	Thomas & Denise Seelye
Fr. Caridad Gonzales	Rosann Foote Smith
Bruce Harland	Grace Sowinski
Our Family Members who have Passed from the Hill & Glass Families	Loretta Jane Stutzman
Errol Hill	Herms Terjung
Barbara & Austin Hunter	Donald Bell Thrush & Jocelyn Lake Thrush
Mrs. Molly Johnson	Paul Tillotson
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Johnston	Alex Toy
Robert, Jane, Brock, & Dirk Kennedy	Sybil McLeod Tyler
Harry & Josephine Krauss	Gertrud & Willhelm Vögeli
Suzanne Krauss	Kelly Warren
Edward Krauss	Sonia Elaine Waters
	Beryl McLeod Wheaton
	Loved ones

**Christmas Flowers & Greens are Given
to the Glory of God and**

in Honor of or Thanksgiving for:

Patrick Allen

Teresa Concepcion

Tommy Evans

Lizzie Evans & Dustin Foote

The Marriage of Dustin Foote & Lizzie Evans

Annie Evans & David Hendrickson

Alice, James, & Lillian Hendrickson

Anabel Hirschman Keany

The Very Rev. Harry E. Krauss

Matthew Marani

Julia Marani & Nicholas Batie

Ellen McElduff

Gwyneth & Charlie Miller

Mildred Moran

Brian Peikin

Marigold Eugenie Tuell

James S. Waring & Luke T. Waring