



the **Church**
of **St Peter** and
St Simon-the-Apostle

A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

December 20, 2020



Clergy

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

The Reverend Michael Perry

Organist: Robin Davis

*Welcome to the Church of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle.
Hearing Assistance Units are available at the back of the church.*



*The flowers are given to the honour and glory of Almighty God and
in thanksgiving for the ministry of the wardens, choir and clergy and the many who serve
at St. Peter and St. Simon's and San Lorenzo Ruiz, by Duncan and Barbara Towe.*

Prelude TBA

Hymn *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Solo Sophie Knowles

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.

Choir 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.

**All For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**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.**

**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;
Where like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.**

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide 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. Therefore, 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. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all Christ's people; for unity and compassion within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese of Toronto. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; 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 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 the Lord Jesus we are for ever 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, forever 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.**

Poem

Christmas Song – by Bliss Carman

Read by Stephanie Woodside

ABOVE the weary waiting world,
Asleep in chill despair,
There breaks a sound of joyous bells
Upon the frosted air.
And o'er the humblest rooftree, lo,
A star is dancing on the snow.
What makes the yellow star to dance
Upon the brink of night?
What makes the breaking dawn to glow
So magically bright,-
And all the earth to be renewed
With infinite beatitude?
The singing bells, the throbbing star,
The sunbeams on the snow,
And the awakening heart that leaps
New ecstasy to know, -
They all are dancing in the morn
Because a little child is born.

William Bliss Carman FRSC (April 15, 1861 – June 8, 1929) was a Canadian poet who lived most of his life in the United States, where he achieved international fame. He was acclaimed as Canada's poet laureate during his later years.

CHOIR CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy – Walford Davies

First Reading

Read by Bram and Noah Cruickshank

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

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.'

Genesis 3: 6-15

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL
The Flower of Jesse – Derek Holman

Hymn 121 vv 1, 3 (*choir only*) & 4: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Second Reading
Read by Sileen Phillips

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. *Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7.*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

The Bird of Dawning – Roland Martin/Wm Shakespeare (Hamlet)

Third Reading

The Reverend Michael Perry

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

Poem

Christmas – by Christina Rossetti

Read by Vanessa Scott

CHRISTMAS hath darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.
Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Hymn 117 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom 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;
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Saviour,
When half spent was the night.**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendour The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, From Sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.**

Fourth Reading

Read by Daphne Harris

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. *Luke 1: 26-38*

Reader The word of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

The Message – Dutch Traditional

Fifth Reading

Read by David Carrington

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken 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 expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, 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 among those whom he favours!’ 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. *Luke 2: 1-16*

Reader The word of the Lord. *All* **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

No Small Wonder – Paul Edwards

Sixth Reading

Read by Ted Robinson

The Magi Follow the Star to Bethlehem.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader The word of the Lord. *All Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 139 (*vv 1 - 4, 6*) *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!***

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

**And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

**This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay *Refrain***

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught
And with his blood salvation brought. *Refrain***

Poem

A Winter Dawn – Lucy Maud Montgomery

Read by Carol Peck

Above the marge of night a star still shines,
And on the frosty hills the sombre pines
Harbour an eerie wind that crooneth low
Over the glimmering wastes of virgin snow.

Through the pale arch of orient the morn
Comes in a milk-white splendour newly-born,
A sword of crimson cuts in twain the gray
Banners of shadow hosts, and lo, the day!

Lucy Maud Montgomery OBE (November 30, 1874 – April 24, 1942), published as *L. M. Montgomery*, was a Canadian author best known for a series of novels beginning in 1908 with *Anne of Green Gables*. The book was an immediate success.

CHOIR CAROL

The Shepherds Pipe Carol – John Rutter

Hymn 132 *Of the Father's Love Begotten vs 1-3, 6*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Of eternal love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!**

**At His Word the worlds were framèd; He commanded; it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean In their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining Of the moon and burning sun,
Evermore and evermore!**

**O that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Saviour of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be:
Honour, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!**

Seventh Reading

Read by The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Saint John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

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 into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was

the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1: 1-14

Reader The word of the Lord. *All Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 118 (*vv 1-4*) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

During the hymn collection will be taken. Thank you for your support.

**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.***

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created: *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain***

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as 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.**

CHOIR CAROL *Hodie – Healey Willan*

The Blessing

Hymn 138 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,**

Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

**Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

Postlude *TBA*