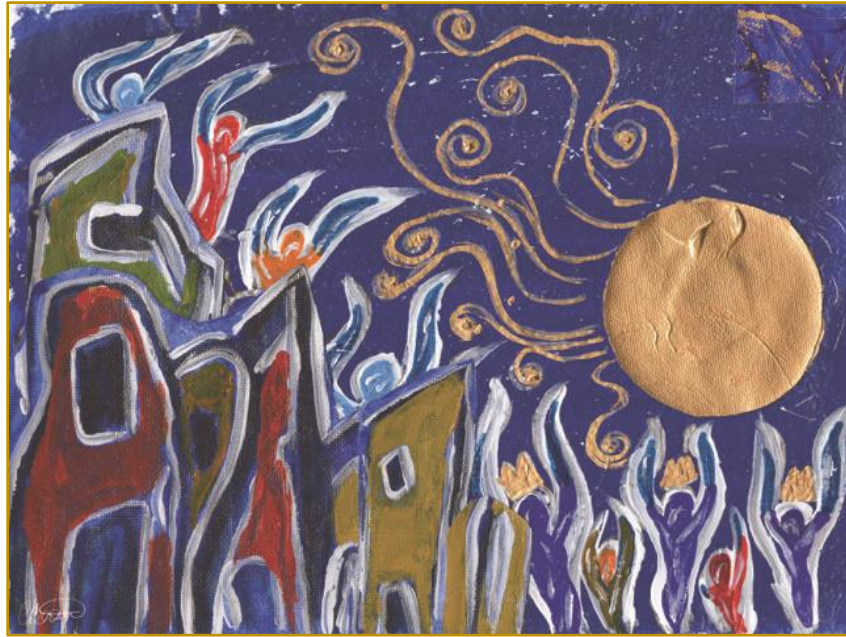

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*St. Paul's strives to be a community of open arms, listening hearts, serving hands, and diverse voices...
because we believe that Love is a commitment not a sentiment*



The Golden Pilgrimage | Carmelle Beaugelin | A Sanctified Art LLC 2022

The Feast of the Holy Name January 1, 2023

Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols & Holy Eucharist

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to 1880 in Truro, England. It was soon adapted by King's College in London, and "Once in David royal's city" became the customary opening hymn. Occurring during the Twelve Days of Christmas, this service invites us to ponder and delight in the wondrous mystery of the incarnation—the coming of God in human flesh—through which God's has renewed creation and has guided us into wholeness and glory: our original design. There is no sermon at Lessons and Carols as the Gospel—the Good News—is proclaimed by the lessons themselves. It is customary at St. Paul's to respond to ancient Scripture with contemporary poetry and prose.

WELCOME

Whatever your background and however you have come to be here, we are glad you are here. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's peace this morning.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

In the Episcopal Church, we often say that praying shapes believing, so how we worship in word and action shapes how we believe and respond to God. We are physical creatures made in God's image, and the physical nature of our worship helps us to connect more fully to God. This liturgy (*the work of the people in worship*) is enriched by the participation of everyone in the room. Regardless of what others are doing, how you physically worship is up to you and how you experience God. We invite you to read the "**About Our Worship**" card in the pew rack to learn more about our worship.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We are delighted to have children in our midst no matter how squiggly they may be. Worship bulletins for children are located on the table in the rear lobby. "New Friend" Activity bags and a small library of books can be found right outside of the left door next to the piano. We also have a play area/nursery upstairs with audio of the service for kids who need to expend a bit more energy.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located at the end of the hallway behind the stairs. Exit through the front or rear doors and make a right at the double doors.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

On the church's liturgical calendar, New Year's Day, January 1, is also the Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also sometimes called the Feast of the Circumcision, since it is observed on the eighth day or "octave" of Jesus' birth, when, in Jewish tradition, infant boys are circumcised and named, in accordance with the Law of Moses. The name "Jesus" comes from Joshua or *Yehoshuah*, the Hebrew word for "savior" or "deliverer." Devotion to the Holy Name can be traced back to Paul's Letter to the Philippians, which says God highly exalted Jesus "and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:9-11). The observance of the Circumcision on the first day of January was originally designated as a fast day in A.D. 567, to counter pagan festivals that occurred at the beginning of each new year. Eventually it evolved into a feast day, celebrating the naming of Jesus and his circumcision; in Jewish tradition circumcisions are often a festive occasion when family and friends gather to witness the naming of the child.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Except for the opening and closing hymns, the congregation is seated for the readings and hymns.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

Once in David's royal city

Hymnal 102

vv. 1-2, 5-6

BIDDING

Presider

Dear People of God: in this Christmas season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the son of God lying in a manger.

Let us enter into God's story—a story of our God's dream and our resistance; our longing and God's promise. Let us make our home with God and all God's people—past and present.

Let us find a song for our weary throats.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the church for which he died, and especially for his church in our country and in this city.

God of Light,

In the beginning – you were.

In this moment – you are.

You are strength and weakness.

You are light and glory.

You are God and you welcome us: you listen for our prayers.

We pray today for peace, peace in our hearts and peace in the dark places of our world. We pray for leaders and negotiators, for peacemakers and peace-keepers, for fighters and prisoners, for all who are caught up in conflict, violence and fear. We pray for peace with integrity and with justice ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for children everywhere, for the newly born, for those growing up among us, for those growing up in places where there is poverty and danger. We pray that they may be loved and welcomed and that they may know smiles and hope ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who sit and eat with us today. We thank you for our families, for our friends, for those who love us, for those who share our laughter and pain. We pray for those who, by choice or by circumstance, eat alone. And we pray for justice for those who are hungry ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick and for those who care for them and pray for them. We pray for those who have died, for those we miss at our table. Tell them how much we love them, we miss them, we carry their stories in our lives ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, for our needs, our concerns, our hopes and our dreams ... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bright loving God, Emmanuel, God-with-us, help us to recognize you and to welcome you into our lives in wonder, in truth and in holy joy. **Amen.**

Only the text of the lessons are read: the customary introduction and conclusion are omitted.

THE FIRST LESSON

After centuries of exile, despair, and captivity, the prophet Isaiah announces the reign of the Prince of Peace. Let us find everlasting hope in the promise that God is with us and, through Jesus, will one day consummate God's reign of peace.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

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

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.

The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances,
nor decide by hearsay.

He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those
who suffer in the land.

He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;
by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

Righteousness will be the belt around his hips, and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down
with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze.
Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

They won't harm or destroy anywhere
on my holy mountain.

The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.

THE RESPONSE

"Soft Robes"

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **Lord of light, who sent Jesus to offer hope and to face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.**

CAROL

Lo how a rose e're blooming -

Hymnal 81
verses 1, 2

THE SECOND LESSON

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the coming of God-in-flesh through her consent to bear the Messiah. Let us join with Mary, the favored handmaid, and offer ourselves in service to God's holy world and people.

THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

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.

THE RESPONSE

"Mary can I sit?"

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of impossible love, you needed Mary to give consent, to bear the scandal, to carry your word within herself: may her courage give hope to everyone—including us—who yearn to sing new songs of justice and find the world a dwelling place for God; through Jesus Christ, the one who was and is and is to come again. Amen.**

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel -

Hymnal 265

verses 1-3

THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew illustrates how Jesus, as the son of Joseph, is born in the line of David, which the prophets foretold. Joseph's willingness to risk reputation, safety, and security for a future he could only trust but not see, calls us to consider the risk...and reward of saying yes to God's promise.

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 1:18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means "God with us.")

THE RESPONSE

"Joseph"

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **God-with-us, borne by Mary's flesh beyond all convention: give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and waken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.**

CAROL

Joy to the world

Hymnal 100

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke tells of Jesus' birth. Let us raise our voices with the messenger who announces good news of great joy to all people

HOLY SCRIPTURE

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 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 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 among 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

RESPONSE

"No and Yes"

Roddy Hamilton

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **God in a manger, God of surprises, help us to unwrap your present to us this Christmas: show us how to celebrate your birth simply, with justice and with holy joy. Amen.**

CAROL

What child is this, who, laid to rest

Hymnal 115

THE FIFTH LESSON

Jesus is presented at the temple according to Jewish law. This was especially poignant for Simeon who had long been waiting for the promised Messiah. Simeon's response invites us to be honest about what we most need and want—and what will give us new life.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:21-32

When eight days had passed, Jesus' parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived. When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,

because my eyes have seen your salvation.

You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.

It's a light for revelation to the Gentile, and a glory for your people Israel."

RESPONSE

"Praise Song for the Day"

Elizabeth Alexander

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **Everliving God, your Son Jesus Christ was presented as a child in the temple to be the hope of your people; grant us pure hearts and minds that we may be transformed into his likeness, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.**

CAROL

O come, all ye faithful -

Hymnal 83
verses 1, 3, 6

THE SIXTH LESSON

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Let us give thanks to the One whose light and love no despair, disease, or death can vanquish.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word;

the Word was in God's presence and the Word was God.

The Word was in the beginning with God.

Through the Word all things came into being,

and nothing that has come into being came into being apart from the Word.

What came into being in the Word was life,

and that life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The Word came into the world—
the Word through which the world came into being—
yet the world did not recognize the living Word.
The living Word came to its own people, but they did not accept the Word.
But all who received the Word, who gave their hearts to that grace,
were enabled to become children of God,
children born not of natural descent,
nor human desire or will or effort, but born of God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the favor and delight parents give an only child, full of grace, full of truth.
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
No one has ever seen God.
It is the Only Begotten, who is close to God’s heart, who has revealed God.

The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness cannot overcome it.

RESPONSE

“Wondering”

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

THE COLLECT

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of grace and truth, whose word brings light to birth in the heart of a darkening world which fears a love it cannot name: may flesh be blessed and born anew by a truth which leaves the heavens and walks the waiting earth; through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate. Amen.**

CAROL

Epiphany Carol

Piney Song Book 26
verses 1, 3

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

At the offertory we offer back to God the first fruits of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money given. You may place your offering in the offering tray or scan the QR code to give securely online. Thank you for your generosity and support.



THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Eucharist (from the Greek word eucharisteo, meaning “thanksgiving”) begins as we lift our hearts with thanksgiving and continues as we remember the story of creation, redemption, and renewal. In the act of remembering and in the Spirit’s blessing upon the bread and wine and the gathered assembly, Christ is made present to us now, giving us strength for the journey.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We thank you loving God, for you did not abandon us or stand far off but came in awful nearness with the urgency of love. In creation’s dawn you gave birth to all this is; to the people of Israel you revealed yourself to a Father and shared the human story. Now we praise you for the Word made flesh, born of Mary’s body, nurtured in her womb, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song. The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the one thrown aside, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost. Now we are caught up, body and soul resound with the glory of music divine, echoing through the hallowed earth:

So we sing with mystery your unending praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, with voices of awe and wonder, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

People **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus breaking the bread at the Last Supper to share with the disciples, and reminds us that Jesus' body was broken on the cross for us to be shared with the world. We keep a moment of silence for prayers of awe and gratitude.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

After the invitation and upon the presentation of the consecrated elements,

Presider Behold who you are.

People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

Although it is customary to be baptized before receiving communion, we know that Jesus ate with everyone to show the breadth and depth of God's love; thus, our table is open to all who hunger. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing. If you would like more information on baptism, the official rite of initiation into the household of God, please see the priest. We would be honored to receive you.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

In the bleak midwinter

Hymnal 112

The first noel

Hymnal 109

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

People **We thank you that our hunger finds its rest in him who offers body and blood for the life of the waiting world: unearth our wandering spirit and show yourself to us in the face of each other. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MILESTONE BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR AN ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Go tell it on the mountain

Hymnal 99

DISMISSAL

Deacon Christ is with us. Go forth in joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church
The Rt. Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington

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