

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 AT 5: 00PM

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | 60 EAST AVENUE | NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

ORGAN PRELUDE

Josh Ehlebracht, Interim Organist

Chorale "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" - J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen from "11 Chorale Preludes" Op. 122 - Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

RESPONSORY

Please stand as the bell sounds. The Choir begins the Responsory from the Lady Chapel.

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
go ye out to meet him and say:
hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel,
thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord,
and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Words: Matins Responsory for the First Sunday of Advent
Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1514-1594)

HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,
 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Conditor alme siderum, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund

THE BIDDING

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our joy to prepare ourselves 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 hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of Christ's birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of all people of faith throughout the world, and especially in this city.

Let us pray:

O God of light inaccessible, enfold the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, and all who have lost faith.

We join in prayer with the whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, with whom, we are made one for evermore.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

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,^a knowing good and evil.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

sung by the Choir

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from the door,
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate
that God at first man create;
the next thing which to you I tell,
woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after that ‘twas God’s own choice
to place them both in Paradise,
there to remain from evil free
except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,
and thus their ruin did begin—
ruined themselves, both you and me,
and all of our posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
‘till God the Lord did interpose,
and so a promise soon did run,
that he’d redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear,
and here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what he did say.

Words: English traditional
Music: English traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

COLLECT

God of majesty and power, amid the clamor of our violence your Word of truth resounds; upon a world fallen in sin the Sun of Justice casts his dawning rays. Keep your household watchful and aware of the hour in which we live. Hasten the advent of that day when our disobedience will be for ever stilled, the darkness of evil scattered, and all your children gathered into one. We ask this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

sung by the Choir

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Words: Spiritual Music: arr. By Andre Thomas

COLLECT

Rend the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages! Rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways, and form us into a watchful people, that at the advent of your Son, he might find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command. Grant this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; harm. Korallbok för Svenska Kyrkan, 1939, alt.

Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P Price.

COLLECT

With tender comfort and transforming power you came into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals. We ask this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from The Gospel of Luke:

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

sung by the Choir

Of one who is so fair and bright, <i>velut maris stella,</i>	[like a star of the sea]
Brighter than the day is light, <i>parens et puella:</i>	[both mother and maiden]
I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady, pray thy Son for me, <i>tam pia,</i>	[so pure]
that I may come to thee. <i>Maria!</i>	[Mary]
All this world was forlorn, <i>Eva peccatrice,</i>	[because of Eve, a sinner]
‘till our Lord was yborn, <i>de te genetrice:</i>	[through you, his mother]
with ave it went away, darkest night, and comes the day, <i>salutis;</i>	[of salvation]
the well springeth out of thee, <i>virtutis.</i>	[of virtue]
Lady, flower of everything, <i>Rosa sine spina,</i>	[Rose without thorn]
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king, <i>gratia divina:</i>	[by divine grace]
of all thou bearest the prize, Lady, queen of paradise, <i>electa:</i>	[chosen]
maid mild, mother <i>es effecta.</i>	[you are made]

Words: Anonymous
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

COLLECT

Here in our midst, O God of mystery, you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages. For you we wait, for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. Grant this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Baruch:

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

sung by the Choir

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
 pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
 of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
 awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
 Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
 gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.
 Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
 as stars about thy throne, set in the height
 of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
 gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.
 Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
 our nature all shall feel eternal day
 in fellowship with thee, transforming clay
 to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.
 Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)
 Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

COLLECT

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

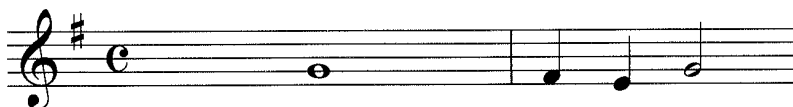
RESPONSORY

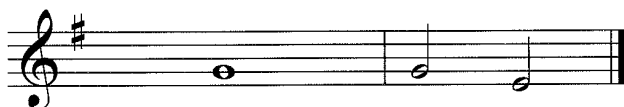
sung by the Choir

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Words: Vesper Responsory for the First Sunday of Advent
Music: Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina (1514-1594)

THE VERSICLE & RESPONSE

Officiant:  We wait for thy loving kind - ness, O Lord:

People:  In the midst of thy tem - ple.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to a reception following the service in the Guild Room and Labyrinth.

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends.

You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 203-889-9983.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

During the antheml, an offering is taken to support the music ministry at St. Paul's. Thank you for being generous.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar
with light and comfort glowing!
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'er flowing!

Words: Numbers 24,v 7 & psalm 2, v9
Music: Felix Mendelssohn

THE BLESSING

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and
remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN *standing, sung in place*

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Helmsley*, Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel" - Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

The choir and ministers depart.

All are invited to a reception following the service in the Guild Room and Labyrinth.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Sunday, December 19 at 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM – Simple Eucharist with Hymns

A brief service designed for young children and their parents.

6:00 PM – FESTIVAL EUCHARIST WITH CHOIR

Music includes traditional carols, hymns & anthems.

Choral Prelude at 5:45pm featuring the St. Paul's Choristers.

10:00 PM – FESTIVAL EUCHARIST WITH CHOIR

Music includes traditional carols, hymns & anthems.

Prelude Music at 9:30 pm featuring Choir, Soloists, and Organ.

CHRISTMAS DAY – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

11:00 AM – Holy Eucharist with carols & organ

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS WITH EUCHARIST

Sunday, December 26 at 11:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYERS AND BURNING BOWL

Friday, December 31 at 6:00 PM

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Priest in Charge*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*