

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
415 South Lexington Street
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Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols – via Zoom
December 24, 2020 5 p.m.

NEW ZOOM LINK and MEETING ID – since it is not a Sunday service

Getting to the Service Using Zoom

Zoom provides the capability for individuals to participate in the service using video or just audio by telephone. We will try to start the service as close to 5p.m. as possible so be sure to access the meeting early. The session will be open about 15 minutes before the service starts.

To participate using zoom click the link below or copy it and paste it into your browser address box.

NEW LINK AND MEETING ID BELOW – for this Service only

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079791176?pwd=eEQ1MWw4dHRtSWl0YjYlMlhnZjVXZz09>

If you can't copy the link -- go to zoom.com/join and enter **Meeting ID for this service only : 880 7979 1176** and Password: 2020. *If you don't have zoom on your device you will need to do that prior to the service.*

If you only want to participate by phone, dial either 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. When you are connected you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: **880 7979 1176**. You will then be prompted to enter the password 2020.

MUTING/UNMUTING PROCEDURES

To address a number of issues, Zoom has made numerous updates in their software over the past couple of months to address security related issues. One prevents us from centrally unmuting an individual or everyone.

In the past we centrally muted everyone then selectively unmuted when the priest or the leader of the prayers was speaking or Judith was playing. We would then unmute all for the response. As noted above we can no longer centrally unmute. We are now asking everyone to unmute themselves at the appropriate times.

You will see that at several places where there is a short prayer or reading by the priest, we previously had muted everyone; this week we will not mute everyone in those instances. We will mute everyone for the Epistle and Gospel readings and the sermon, but the reader may have to unmute themselves. Each of you will need to unmute yourself at the appropriate time as is noted below. Please be very aware of any sounds in your area and mute yourself to not disturb the rest of the congregation.

How to Unmute or Mute your connection – If you are using the Zoom app, you will see one of these two icons at the bottom left of your screen. When the top one shows you are unmuted, if click on it, it will change to the bottom one indicating you are muted.

If you dial in by phone, press *6 to switch between Mute and Unmute.
You can temporarily unmute some devices by holding the space bar.





**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL
OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS!**

Our service comes from the great tradition of the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," first celebrated on Christmas Eve 1880 by Bishop Edward W. Benson of Truro Cathedral. Variations have been crafted for other occasions, but it is known primarily as a Christmas Eve service. The regular format includes nine lessons interspersed with Carols and Choral pieces that tell the story of salvation from the Fall to Christ's Nativity. The hymns will be posted with lyrics, so please join in singing them. Thank you to all of our participants and those joining us on-line. A special word of gratitude for Lynn Robinson and Carol Dunlap for their recording and for Peter Oliver's continuing work with the camera and to prepare our internet services.

Prelude: "Once in Royal David's City" *(Centrally mute all - short video solo)*

THE BIDDING PRAYER *(The priest unmutes)*

Beloved in Christ at St. John's parish family and all those who visit with us this holy night, let it be our joy this Christmas to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see the babe lying in a manger. But first, because they are so precious in the Lord's eyes, let us remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; and especially those who are afflicted with Covid and those who have died from it. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude of saints which nobody can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. Let us humbly offer these prayers and praises to the throne of heaven as we recall the great stories of Savior's birth and the promise of eternal life with him and those we love.

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah *(Centrally mute all)*

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah. *(The reader unmutes)*

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord *(Each person unmutes)*

People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (*Centrally mute all – Join in song with the lyrics on the screen*)

Second Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7 - The birth of Jesus

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (*The reader unmutes*)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord (*Each person unmutes*)

People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Centrally mute all – Join in song with the lyrics on the screen*)

Third Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20 - The angels announce the birth of Jesus

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (*The reader unmutes*)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord (*Each person unmutes*)

People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: "Angels we have heard on high" (*Centrally mute all – Join in song with the lyrics on the screen*)

Fourth Lesson: John 1: 1-14 - John proclaims the Incarnate Word

Priest A reading from the Gospel of St. John (*The priest unmutes*)

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.

Priest The Word of the Lord *(Each person unmutes)*
People **Thanks be to God.**

"Glory Hallelujah, He Is Born" by Jay Althouse & Mary Kay Beall *(Centrally mute all)*

Solo: Lynn Robinson Piano: Carol Dunlap *(prerecorded)*

THE PRAYERS

The Collect for Christmas *(The priest unmutes)*

Priest O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Christ's Presence

Priest Gracious Lord, keep watch this Christmas, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Each person unmutes)*

The Priest says

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Priest and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, (p)

hallowed be thy Name, (p)

thy kingdom come, (p)

thy will be done, (p)

on earth as it is in heaven. (p)

Give us this day our daily bread. (p)

And forgive us our trespasses, (p)

as we forgive those (p)

who trespass against us. (p)

And lead us not into temptation, (p)

but deliver us from evil. (p)

For thine is the kingdom, (p)

and the power, and the glory, (p)

for ever and ever. (p)

