

A Service of Lessons and Carols
Christ Church Episcopal
Thursday December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

9 South Main Street
Sharon, CT 06069



Officiant:
Priest-In-Charge
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker

The Service of Lessons and Carols
Christ Church Episcopal
Thursday December 24, 2020

Prelude: *Once in Royal David's City*
Music: Henry John Gauntlett
Words: Cecil Frances Alexander

Organist, Sherry Dwyer

Bidding Prayers

The Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker

Prayers for the World

Hargrove Family

Jesus Christ, born in a stable,
Be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time, that they may know
belonging.
Come Lord Jesus
Be our guest

Jesus Christ, born of Mary,
Be with all people and offer them hope and joy.
Come Lord Jesus
Be our guest.

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds,
Be with all who are lost that they may be found.
Come Lord Jesus
Be our guest

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee,
Be with those who fear for their lives, with those who are sick or suffering,
with those who are oppressed, that they may know mercy and healing.
Come Lord Jesus
Be our guest

Jesus Christ, who rose again.

Bless those who have died in hope of the resurrection and offer us the gift of new life, new beginnings, and surprising joy!

Come Lord Jesus

Be our guest.

Collect

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 83: O Come All Ye Faithful

Lyrics & Music: John Frances Wade

First Reading

Lector: Joanie Yahn

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7 *Christ's Birth and Kingdom are foretold*

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn 81: *Lo, How A Rose*

Music: Michael Praetorius

Lyrics: Theodore Baker

Second Reading

Lector: Joanie Yahn

Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9 *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Ave Maria

Organ Instrumental, Sherry Dwyer, Organist

Third Lesson

Lector: William Trowbridge

Luke 1:26-38 *The angel Gabrielle salutes the 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, 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.

Hymn 56: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Music: Thomas Helmore

Lyrics: Latin ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940 *alt.*

Fourth Lesson

Lector: William Trowbridge

Matthew 1:18-23 *Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus*

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Hymn 78: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. And harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lyrics: Phillips Brooks

Fifth Lesson *John unfolds the great Mystery of the Incarnation*

John 1:1-18

The Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker

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 testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Hymn 115: What Child is This

Lyrics: William Chatterton

Music: Greensleeves, English melody

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker

Blessing

Hymn 111: Silent Night, Holy Night

Music and Lyrics: John Francis Wade

Postlude

**Christ Church Sharon wishes all a Merry Christmas.
May God's blessings be born in us and in our lives this holy night.**

FLOWER MEMORIAL REMEBERANCE

The Flowers which adorn the Sanctuary are given and arranged as an expression of Thanksgiving to God, and for those we hold in our hearts, that have touched our lives and risen in glory.



(The Service has been videotaped and will be available on our website and sent in an email by noon on Christmas Eve)

Christ Church gives thanks for all who made this Christmas Eve service possible and beautiful in extraordinary times. We are grateful for all who participate in new ways this year. We hope you sing your heart out!

Also, with gratitude for:

The members of Christ Church who have demonstrated such faithfulness in these trying times and have supported us to this point.

The Vestry and Wardens for leadership in times with issues unanticipated.

The Altar Guild for tireless attention to detail and beauty for the glory of God.

Sherry Dwyer, Organist

Cathy Casey, Parish Administrator

Joan Yahn, Lector

William Trowbridge, Lector

Dixon, Lauren, Leah, Gracie, and Emma Hargrove, Bidding Prayers

The Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker, Officiant

Special thanks to Lauren Hargrove for technical advice and creative acumen in producing this video!

