

**SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE**  
in the  
**CITY OF NEW YORK**



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The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

**A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 4 P.M.**  
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys

**PRELUDE**

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, from Elf Choral-Vorspiele Op. 122

*Johannes Brahms*  
(1833-1897)*The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.***HYMN**

IRBY

*Choir Only:*

**O**NCE 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 Only:*

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:*

And, through all his wondrous childhood,  
 he would honor and obey,  
 love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
 in whose gentle arms he lay;  
 Christian children all must be  
 mild, obedient, good as he.

*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.

*All:*

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.

*All:*

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;  
 when like stars his children crowned,  
 all in white shall wait around

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)***THE BIDDING**

**B**ELOVED in Christ, at this Christmastide, let it be 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 his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city and diocese of New York.

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 man 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:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant and People*

**O**UR 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.

**T**HE 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.*

*The People sit.*

**CAROL**

*Sung by the Choir*

*Richard Wayne Dirksen  
(1921-2003)*

**A**LL this night shrill Chanticleer,  
day's proclaiming trumpeter,  
claps his wings and loudly cries,  
mortals, mortals, wake and rise!  
See a wonder heaven is under;  
from the earth is risen a sun,  
shines all night though day be done.

Wake, o earth, wake everything,  
wake and hear the joy I bring;  
wake and joy; for all this night  
heaven and every twinkling light,  
all amazing still stand gazing  
angels, powers and all that be,  
wake, and joy this sun to see.

*William Austin (1587-1634)*

**FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 3:8-15

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

*Reader: A Member of the Congregation*

**CAROL**

*Sung by the Choir*

*Traditional English Carol  
Arr. Christopher Robinson  
(b. 1936)*

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

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at the season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He 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.

*Anonymous*

**SECOND LESSON**

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.**Reader: A Chorister**The People stand.***HYMN**

FOREST GREEN

*All:*

**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.

*All:*

O morning stars, together  
 proclaim the holy birth,  
 and praises sing to God the King,  
 and peace to men on earth;  
 for Christ is born of Mary;  
 and, gathered all above,  
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
 their watch of wondering love.

*The People sit.**Choir Only:*

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.

*All:*

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.

**THIRD LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.**Reader: A Gentleman of the Choir***CAROL** The Sussex Carol*Sung by the Choir*

Traditional English Carol

Arr. *Philip Ledger*

(1937-2012)

**O**N Christmas night all Christians sing  
 to hear the news the angels bring.  
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
 news of our merciful King's birth.  
 Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
 since our Redeemer made us glad,  
 when from our sin he set us free,  
 all for to gain our liberty?  
 When sin departs before his grace,  
 then life and health come in its place.  
 Angels and men with joy may sing  
 all for to see the new-born King.  
 All out of darkness we have light,  
 which made the angels sing this night:  
 "Glory to God and peace to men,  
 now and for evermore, Amen!"

*Luke Wadding (1588-1657)***FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-9

*The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.**Reader: The Organist and Director of Music*

**CAROL** No small wonder

*Sung by the Choir*

*Paul Edwards*  
(b. 1955)

**S**MALL wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
but stable and manger for God no small wonder!  
Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;  
but God gives his life on a cross – no small wonder!  
Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
the power, the glory, the light of his face;  
but all to redeem my poor heart – no small wonder!

**FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*Reader: The Head of the Choir School*

**CAROL**

*Sung by the Choir*

*Matthew Martin*  
(b. 1976)

**A**VE, maris stella,  
Dei Mater alma,  
atque semper virgo,  
felix caeli porta.

Solve vincla reis,  
profer lumen caecis,  
mala nostra pelle,  
bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem  
summat per te preces,  
qui pro nobis natus  
tulit esse tuus.

Vitam praesta puram,  
iter para tutum,  
ut videntes Jesum,  
semper collaetemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,  
summo Christo decus  
Spiritui Sancto,  
tribus honor unus. Amen.

*Hail, star of the sea,  
loving Mother of God,  
and also always a virgin,  
happy gate of heaven.*

*Break the chains of sinners,  
bring light to the blind,  
drive away our evils,  
ask for all good.*

*Show yourself to be a mother,  
may he accept prayers through you,  
he who, born for us,  
chose to be yours.*

*Keep life pure,  
make the journey safe,  
so that, seeing Jesus,  
we may always rejoice together.*

*Let there be praise to God the Father,  
glory to Christ in the highest,  
to the Holy Spirit,  
one honor to all three. Amen.*

*Anonymous, 8th century*

**SIXTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

*Reader: A Youth Lector*

CAROL

*Sung by the Choir*

Traditional Polish Carol

Arr. Gerre Hancock

(1934-2012)

**I**NFANT holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!

*Attr. Piotrowi Skardzke; Paraphrased Edith M.G. Reed*

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*  
Reader: A Warden of the Parish

*The People stand.*

HYMN

WINCHESTER OLD

**W**HILE shepherds watched their flocks  
by night, All seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
and on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'

*Nabum Tate (1652-1715)*

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.*  
Reader: A Priest of the Parish

**I**N the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
 nor earth sustain;  
 heaven and earth shall flee away  
 when he comes to reign:  
 in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed  
 the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there  
 cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
 But only his mother in her maiden bliss  
 worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
 poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
 yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

*The People stand.*

## NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

Reader: The Rector

*The People sit.*

## CAROL On Christmas Day

*Sung by the Choir*

*Simon Preston*  
(b. 1938)

**M**AKE me pure, Lord; thou art holy;  
 make me meek, Lord: thou wert lowly;  
 now beginning, and always: now begin on Christmas Day.

Moonless darkness stands between.  
 Past, the past, no more be seen!  
 But the Bethlehem star may lead me  
 to the sight of him who freed me  
 from the self that I have been.

*Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)*

*The People stand.*

## HYMN

## ADESTE FIDELES

**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:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

See how the shepherds,  
 summoned to his cradle,  
 leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
 we too will thither  
 bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
 sing in exultation,  
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
 Glory to God  
 in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

## THE CHRISTMAS 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 thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for 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.*

## THE BLESSING

**C**HRI<sup>S</sup>T, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## HYMN

MENDELSSOHN

**H**ARK! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

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 man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on 'Adeste Fideles' (2005)

*Francis Pott  
(b. 1957)*