

*A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist  
with  
Nine Lessons & Carols*



*St. James' Episcopal Church  
Skaneateles, New York*

*December 31, 2023  
Ten O'clock in the Morning*

*For the benefit of those who wish to pray, we ask that you please enter the Sanctuary quietly.*

*Everything you need to follow the liturgy can be found in your bulletin.*

*Feel free to fill out a pew card if are a newcomer and would like to get to know us better. We are so glad you are here!*

## **Prelude**

*Of the Father's love begotten*

## **Welcome**

*All stand, as able.*

## **Opening Hymn**

**102**

*Once in royal David's city*

*Presider* Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*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 hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious resurrection brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and justice on Earth, for the unity and mission of Christ's Body, the Church, for which he died.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in Christ's name 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.

Finally, let us remember God's pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

May almighty God bless us with all grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*All sit during the Lessons and stand to sing the Carols.*

## **First Lesson**

*Genesis 3: 1-15*

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, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

**Carol**

**60**

*Creator of the stars of night*

**Second Lesson**

*Genesis 22: 15-18*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

**Carol**

**66**

*Come thou long expected Jesus*

**Third Lesson**

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Carol**

**67**

*Comfort, comfort, ye my people*

**Fourth Lesson**

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

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

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.

**Carol**

**105**

*God rest ye merry gentlemen*

**Fifth Lesson**

*Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

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.'

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.

**Carol** **265** *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

**Sixth Lesson** *Luke 2: 1, 3-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

**Carol** **107** *Good Christian friends rejoice*

**Seventh Lesson** *Luke 2: 8-16*

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

**Carol** **94** *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*

**Eighth Lesson** *Matthew 2: 1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol**

**109**

*The first Nowell*

**Ninth Lesson**

*John 1: 1-14*

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**

**83 (v. 1,2,3,6)**

*O come all ye faithful*

*All are seated.*

**Reflection**

*Presider*      The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Birthday & Anniversary Blessing**

*Those celebrating birthday and anniversaries are invited to come forward. The People and Ministers recognize and bless them.*

*All*            **May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year. Amen.**

*An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love in with the world. For more information on how you can help, go to [www.stjameskan.org/support-st-james](http://www.stjameskan.org/support-st-james) or by clicking the QR Code on the back of the bulletin*

*All stand for the presentation of the gifts and join in the hymn.*

**Hymn at the Presentation**

**124 (verse 5)**

*Puer nobis*

**To God the father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Holy Ghost we raise, our equal and unceasing praise.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* How can we thank you, God? For sun, moon, and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for the birth of Jesus, who seeks us out to call us home and forever sing your praise. And so with saints and angels and all creation we join together in proclaiming the never-ending song of heaven:

*All join in singing the Sanctus (S-130 in the blue hymnal)*

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of our glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People remain standing as the Presider recalls God's work in creation and humanity's fall and the redemption of the world by Christ. After recalling Christ's Last Supper, the Presider and People pray:*

*Presider* This is our Story.

*All* **This is our Song.**

*The Presider prays that the gifts and People may be blessed and sanctified by God. When the Presider concludes the prayer, the People loudly respond, "AMEN!"*

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

*All* **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.**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The Presider invites the People to share in the Communion of our Lord. All who desire a deeper relationship with Christ are welcome to receive. If you do not wish to receive, you may come forward for a Blessing.*

*The Presider will place the Bread in your hands. You may eat the Bread and drink from the common Cup, or you may leave the Bread in your hands and have the Minister dip the Bread in the Wine for you before handing it back.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you do not wish you receive for any reason, you are welcome to come forward and cross your arms for a blessing.*

*During Communion, Prayer Ministers are available at either end of the altar rail to pray with anyone who is in need.*

*When all have received Holy Communion, the Presider returns to the Holy Table.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **Loving God, we thank you for the birth of Jesus, for his love, his life, his death, and his resurrection. We thank you for this holy meal and pray that it will strengthen us and fill us with your goodness. Gather into your arms all the people of the world, so that we might share your good news of peace with your children everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider offers a blessing and the People respond, 'Amen.'*

**Closing Hymn**

**99**

*Go tell it on the mountain*

*The Dismissal is given, and the People respond, 'Thanks be to God.'*

**Postlude**

*Participants in the Liturgy*

Presider  
Lectors

The Rev. Toppie Bates  
Larry Webster  
Carol Murphy  
Kristina Abbott  
Margie Amberge  
Cindy Bright  
Beckie Hidy  
Brian Hidy  
Judy Holmes  
Sr. Marie Patricia Hughes  
Nancy Lee  
Carolyn Legg  
Cindy Bright  
Carol Murphy  
Justin Oei  
Bob & Nancy Lee

Eucharistic Ministers

Organist & Choir Leader  
Usher

*Hymn texts and music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-735321.  
All rights reserved.*



St. James' Episcopal Church \* 96. E.

315-685-7600 \* [www.stjameskan.org](http://www.stjameskan.org)

Genesee St. Skaneateles, NY 13152 \*