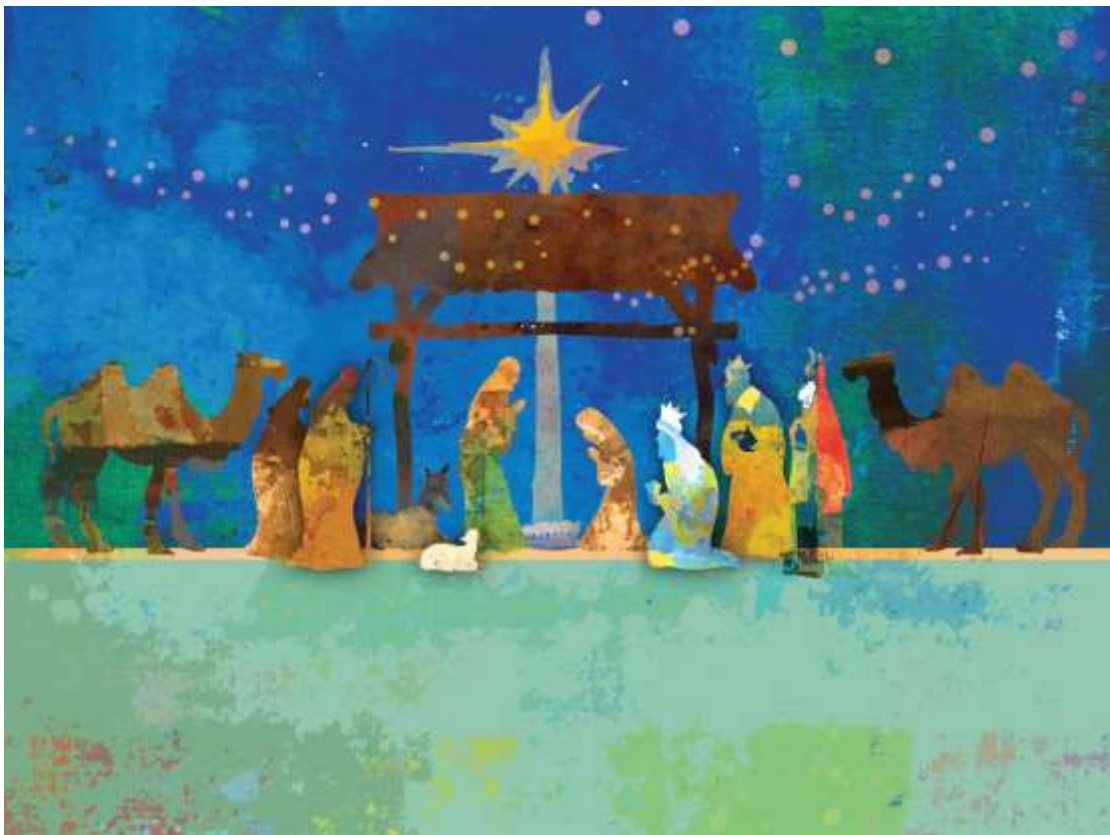


# St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Ocean City, Maryland



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021

# A Service of Lessons & Carols

## The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

*Advent Wreath Liturgy, Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Christ, compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski.*

Celebrant: "Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle."

The candles are lit.

*The candles are lit; the lighter says*

Scripture: "Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Prayer: "O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen."

**Processional Hymn: Once in royal David's city**

**Hymnal 1982, #102 vs 1-3**

1. Once 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.

2. 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, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. We, like Mary, rest confounded  
that a stable should display  
heaven's Word, the world's creator,  
cradled there on Christmas Day,  
yet this child, our Lord and brother,  
brought us love for another.

### **A Bidding Prayer** *Contemporary*

*Officiant*

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 him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols 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 the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this *city*.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his 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, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his 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.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*Officiant and People*

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,  
who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Officiant continues*

The Almighty God bless us with his 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.



***Please be seated during the reading of the lessons and stand, as you are able, while singing the hymns.***

## **Lesson 1: Genesis 2:4b-9**

Tom Shuster

**God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden**

*Reader: Our first lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Genesis, beginning at the 4th Verse:*

**4** These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, **5** when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground;

**6** but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—

**7** then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

**8** And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

**9** Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



## **Lesson 2: Genesis 3:1-23**

Tom Shuster

### **Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden**

*Reader: Our second lesson is from the 3rd Chapter of Genesis, beginning at the 1st verse:*

1 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?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 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.' "

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die;

5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

13 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."

14 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.

15 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."

16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

17 And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

20 The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—

23 therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

### **Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Hymnal 1982, #66**

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.



### Lesson 3: Isaiah 35:1-10

Amy Rothermel

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us

*Reader: Our third lesson is from the 35th Chapter of Isaiah, beginning at the 1st verse:*

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
- 2 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.
- 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4 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."
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- 6 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;
- 7 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.
- 8 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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
- 9 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.
- 10 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.

### Hymn: Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming

Hymnal 1982, #81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath spring!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,  
where half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind,  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;

true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us  
and share our every load.



**Lesson 4: Isaiah 7:10-15**

Cheryl Nottingham

**God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us"**

*Reader: Our fourth lesson is from the 7th Chapter of Isaiah, beginning at the 10th verse:*

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,

11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.

13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

**Hymn: Away in a Manger**

**Hymnal 1982, #101**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.





## Lesson 5: Luke 1:26-58

Nancy Knotts

### The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High

*Reader: Our 5th Lesson is from the first Chapter of Luke, beginning at the 26th verse.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 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.

33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 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.

36 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.

37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 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.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on  
all generations will call me blessed;  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts  
of their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his  
descendants forever."  
56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her  
home.  
57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.  
58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to  
her, and they rejoiced with her.

**Hymn: Sing of Mary, pure and lowly**

**Hymnal 1982, #277**

1 Sing of Mary pure and lowly,  
virgin-mother undefiled:  
sing of God's own Son most holy,  
who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother,  
God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother,  
takes our nature by his birth.

2 Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,  
in the home at Nazareth.  
toil and labor cannot weary  
love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her,  
though he went forth from her side,  
forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,  
till on Calvary he died.

3 Glory be to God the Father;  
glory be to God the Son;  
glory be to God the Spirit;  
glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary,  
from all saints the song ascends,  
and the Church the strain reechoes  
unto earth's remotest ends.



**Lesson 6: Luke 1:57-80**

John Knotts

**John the Baptist is born and his father rejoices that his son will prepare the way of the Lord**

*Reader: Our 6th Lesson is from the first Chapter of Luke, beginning at the 57th Verse*

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."

61 They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."

62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.

66 All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,  
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us  
74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,  
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."  
80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### **Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter**

**Hymnal 1982, #112**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fellen, 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 incarnate, Jesus Christ.

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.



## Lesson 7: Luke 2: 1-20

Bob Rothermel

### Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds

*Reader: Our 7th lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Luke, beginning at the 1st verse:*

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

2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

4 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.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 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.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 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:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 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."

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Hymn: Silent Night

Hymnal 1982, #111

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at they birth.



## Lesson 8: Luke 2:21-35

Amy Rothermel

### Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple

*Reader: Our 8th lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Luke, beginning at the 21st verse:*

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

### Hymn: What Child is This

Hymnal 1982, #115

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Chorus*

This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

*Chorus*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

*Chorus*



### Lesson 9: Hebrews 1:1-12

Debbie Shuster

**In the fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever and ever**

*Reader: Our 9th Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of Hebrews, beginning at the 1st Verse:*

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

10 And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

12 like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

### Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal 1982, #96

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brave delight.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.



*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*



## **Lesson 10: John 1:1-18**

Bob Rothermel

### **The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory**

*Reader: Our final lesson is from the 1st Chapter of John, beginning at the 1st verse:*

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 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.

15 (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.'")

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 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: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal 1982, #87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!



## Announcements

### Offertory

*The Officiant says to the people*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### Anthem - Child in a Manger

Choir

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### Collect for Christmas Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **Christmas Season Blessing**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill us with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us, and remain with us always. *Amen.*

## **Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World**

**Hymnal 1982, #100**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and  
nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat,  
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground: he comes to make  
his blessing flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as,  
far as the curse is found.

## **Dismissal**

*Officiant*

Christ the son of God, born of Mary, fill us with grace to trust his promises and  
obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with  
us and remain with us forever.

*Thank you for attending and participating in this special service of Lessons and Carols.*



In Thanksgiving for Guy Robert Ayres III, Lorna Ross Seward, Meg Wittington-James by *Kay Ayres*

In Memory of John & Sarah Zarisky and in Thanksgiving for Alex, Stacy and their families by *Lynda Azar*

In Memory of Francisco Candeloro and in Thanksgiving for my wonderful family by *Viola Candeloro*

In Memory of Paul Charles, my parents, and my son, Bryan and in Thanksgiving for Viola Candeloro & family by *Jean Charles*

In Memory of Peg and Delbert Clark by *Gordon Clark*

In Memory of Gary T Cooper, Matthew Ballard Cooper, Lester V. Ballard, Helen Elizabeth & Lester Samuel Ballard and in Thanksgiving for my good health and a wonderful family by *Beverly Elaine Cooper*

In Thanksgiving for my family by *Amanda Cropper*

In Thanksgiving for the blessings of the Lord on my life by *Andy E. Diaz*

In Memory of my Rex by *Shirley Hailey*

In Memory of Robert, Elaine and Jim Farley by *Jody Farley & Helena Russell*

In Memory of our loved ones and in Thanksgiving for our family and friends by *Dan and Deb Harris*

In Thanksgiving for the Knotts & Wolff families by *Nancy & John Knotts*

In Memory of Ken MacMullin and in Thanksgiving for my many blessings by *Elsie MacMullin*

In Memory of Gil Griggs by *Patricia Mulcahy*

In Memory of our parents, husbands and sister *by Marlene Mumford & Sandra Andersen*

In Memory of Maurice & Betty Wilkins, Dorothy Lee, Sherry Wilkins Lewis & Joyce Higbee *by Mike & Cheryl Nottingham*

*“The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”* (BCP, p. 855.)  
In Gratitude for all the lay persons of St. Paul’s by-the-Sea, who have supported this community of faith throughout this past year *by Tom & Debbie Shuster*

In Memory of Charles Wright *by Mary Wright*