

The Rev. Amber B. Carswell, Rector
Deborah Schofield, music director/organist
David Crone, choir director
Erick Storckman, trombonist
Choir: Neena Bisconti, Lucia Crone, Samantha Curran,
Danielle Diaz, Brian Gens, Laurie Knowles,
Donald R. McFarland, Ellen Metzger, Abigail Opper,
Tammy Prince, Erick Storckman, Jean Storckman,
Olivia Theokas, Michael Wiedbrauk, Steven Wing,
Kathleen Zelles

Readers

First lesson: Jim Boerlin
Second lesson: Keira Harrison
Third lesson: Parker Walters
Fourth lesson: Tammy Prince
Fifth lesson: Ivy Tulin
Sixth lesson: Rachel Loftus
Seventh lesson: Bill O'Keefe
Eighth lesson: Matthew Mumford
Ninth lesson: The Rev. Amber B. Carswell

Usher: George Opper

We warmly invite you as well as friends, family, and visiting guests to join us for Christmas worship:

- Christmas Eve 5pm - Holy Eucharist
- Christmas Eve 8pm - Choral Eucharist with incense

Merry
Christmas

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



Sunday • December 19, 2021 • 4pm



Christ
Church

50 South Street, Warwick NY
845.986.3440 ChristChurch.org

Welcome

This traditional celebration is based on the renowned King's College Christmas Eve service held annually in Cambridge, England since 1918. Hymns are in the blue hymnal book.

Hymn 102 *Once in royal David's city*

the congregation stands as the procession begins

verses 1: soloist

verses 2-3: choir

verses 4-6: all sing

the congregation is seated after the hymn



The Bidding

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide 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 our diocese.

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 one for evermore.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Answer: And with thy spirit

Priest: Let us pray. *(all kneel)*

The Closing Collect *(priest)* 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 Ghost, one God, world without end. *(all)* **Amen.**

The Blessing *(priest)* May He who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. *(all)* **Amen.**

Hymn 87 *Hark! the herald angels sing* words by Charles Wesley, music by Felix Mendelssohn *(stand)*

Choir voluntary *Carol of the Bells* by M. Leontovich, Peter Wilhousky arr. Steve Kupferschmid



These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us, and devoutly kneeling:

The Lord's Prayer *(all)*

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 91 Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light

the congregation is seated

First Lesson Genesis iii "God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

Hymn 64 vs 1-3 O heavenly Word, eternal Light

Second Lesson Genesis xxii "God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed."

Choir anthem Jesus Christ the Apple Tree by Elizabeth Poston

Third Lesson Isaiah ix

"Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah."

Hymn 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

Fourth Lesson Isaiah xi

"The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown."

Hymn 81 Low, how a Rose e'er blooming *(verse 2 a capella)*

Fifth Lesson St. Luke i

"The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Hymn 265 Gabriel's Message

Sixth Lesson St. Luke ii

"St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus."

Choir anthem Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging

by Siegfried Strobach

Seventh Lesson St. Luke ii

"The shepherds go to the manger."

Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Eighth Lesson St. Matthew ii

"The wise men are led by the star to Jesus."

Hymn 128 We three kings of Orient are

the congregation stands

Ninth Lesson St. John i

"St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation."

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful arr. by David Willcocks *(all stand)*

During the hymn, the officiant moves to the high altar.

