

*A Festival of Christmas
Lessons and Carols*

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora



*Sunday, December 19, 2021
4:00pm and 6:30 pm*

Founded in 1832, the parish of St. John's Elora has offered Nine Lessons and Carols for over 40 years.

This year we welcome you under our diocesan guidelines (December 16) with a modified service.

**You are invited to offer your worship keeping the safety of others in mind:
sing softly behind your face mask, and keep your physical distance from people in other households.**

This service was first introduced in 1918 to King's College to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. Many of us are experiencing the same realities and feelings this year in the pandemic. The bidding prayer and the lessons remain unchanged over the years. The last lesson reminds us that the gift of the incarnation of God in the flesh means that God does not stand aloof from our sufferings. God enters Into our human experience with all humility in order to transform it, that we might be free to love one another.

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*St. John's church sits on the traditional unceded territories of the Attawandaron, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. These lands are covered by the Between the Lakes Treaty and the Haldemand land grant. These lands are also part of The Dish With One Spoon Treaty, all subsequent newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. Today this land is home to many diverse Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples.*

## **CAROL            Once In Royal David's City**

**Solo:**

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.

*(Congregation invited to join in singing verse 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, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved 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 record 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 people; for unity and harmony 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 one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

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

**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 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The 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.**

**LESSON I**    Genesis 3:8-13, 22-24      Adam and Eve are cast out of Paradise

*Read by Bob Cooper 4:00pm*

*Read by Rod Murray 6:30pm*

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."

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"—therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life

**ANTHEM**      **Christ Hath a Garden**

Eleanor Daley

Christ hath a garden walled around,  
A Paradise of fruitful ground,  
Chosen by love and fenced by grace  
From out the world's wide wilderness.

Awake, O wind of heaven, and bear  
Their sweetest perfume through the air;  
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom,  
Till the beloved Master come;

Like trees of spice His servants stand,  
There planted by His mighty hand;  
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow  
To feed their beauty where they grow.

That He may come and linger yet  
Among the trees that He hath set;  
That He may evermore be seen  
To walk amid the springing green.

*Text: Isaac Watts*

**LESSON II**      Isaiah 9.2b-7      The prophet foretells the birth of the Saviour

*Read by Pam Gradwell 4:00pm*

*Read by Colleen Murray 6:30pm*

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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.

### CAROL - Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Michael Praetorius/Douglas Cashmore

(sung in German)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As seers of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When 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 all a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.  
This Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

### LESSON III

Luke 1.26-35,38

The Angel greets Mary

*Read by Dinah Bristowe 4:00pm*

*Read by Carrie Chong 6:30pm*

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.

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 Lullay My Liking**

Philip Lawson

Lullay my liking,  
My dear son, my sweeting;  
Lullay my dear heart,  
My own dear darling.

3. There was mickle melody  
At that childes birth.  
Though they were in heaven's bliss  
They made mickle mirth.

1. I saw a fair maiden  
Sitten and sing.  
She lulled a little child,  
A sweete lording.

4. Angels bright they sang that night  
And saiden to that child:  
"Blessed be Thou and so be she  
That is both meek and mild."

2. That eternal Lord is He  
That made alle thing.  
Of alle Lordes He is Lord,  
Of alle Kinges King.

5. Pray we now to that child  
and to His Mother dear.  
God grant them all His blessing  
That now maken cheer.

**LESSON IV:** Luke 2.1, 3-7 Mary gives birth to the Christ child

*Read by Judy Bates 4:00pm*

*Read by Laura Robertson 6:30pm*

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.

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL Away In a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 you,  
Lord Jesus look down from on high,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

**LESSON V** Luke 2.8-16 Shepherds go to Bethlehem

*Read by Thomas Littlewood 4:00pm*

*Read by Catherine Robertson 6:30pm*

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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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     In Slumber Deep**

Patrick Murray

Wrapped was the world in slumber deep,  
 By seaward valley and cedarn steep,  
 And bright and blest were the dreams of its sleep;  
 All the hours of that wonderful night-tide through  
 The stars outblossomed in fields of blue,  
 A heavenly chaplet, to diadem  
 The King in the manger of Bethlehem.

In the dimly lit stable the mother mild  
 Looked with holy eyes on her child,  
 Cradled him close to her heart and smiled;  
 Kingly purple nor crown had he,  
 Never a trapping of royalty;  
 But Mary saw that the baby's head  
 With a slender nimbus was garlanded.

Speechless her joy as she watched him there,  
 Forgetful of pain and grief and care,  
 And every thought in her soul was a prayer;  
 While under the dome of the desert sky  
 The Kings of the East from afar drew nigh,  
 And the great white star that was guide to them  
 Kept ward o'er the manger of Bethlehem.

*Text: Lucy Maud Montgomery***LESSON VI**

John 1.1-18

The eternal Word of God was made flesh

*Read by Colin Fox 4:00pm**Read by Rev'd Judy Steers 6:30pm*

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.

**ANTHEM****O Magnum Mysterium**

Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery,  
 and wonderful sacrament,  
 that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
 lying in a manger!

Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
 was worthy to bear  
 the Lord, Jesus Christ.  
 Alleluia!

## COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

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.**

## BLESSING

### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL     Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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 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 ever lasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled inflesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased as one of us 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 we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth,  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

### Recessional and Postlude     Plein Jeu and Grands Jeux from Magnificat in D

JF Dandrieu

### Choir:

Janelle Santi, Kate Wright, Rebecca McKay, Emily Petrenko, Christina Stelmacovich, Catherine Robertson, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Marcus Kramer, Alan Macdonald, Michael Cressman, Matt Oxley

Greeters 4:00pm: Chris Rynberk, Doug Wilson

Greeters 6:30pm: Felicia Gow, Daniel Skripkariuk

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

You are invited to attend in-person to celebrate Christmas at St. John's.

PLEASE REGISTER for the services that you plan to attend in-person.

### ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### DEPENDING ON DIOCESAN AND PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES

#### Friday December 24

4:00pm Holy Eucharist (BAS) concludes in candlelight

6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP) with Parish Choir  
(in-person and live-stream)

9:00pm Holy Communion (BCP) with Parish Choir

#### Saturday December 25

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) with Quartet

#### Sunday December 26

10:00am Choral Matins with Quartet

To support the ministry of St. John's Elora,  
there are "Offering Boxes" located at the church doors.

You can send your donation by E-transfer to [treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

To support the ministry of the Parish Choir, please mark your donation "CHOIR FUND".

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector:               | The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker | <a href="mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com">rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a> |
| Curate:               | The Rev'd Judy Steers          | <a href="mailto:curate.stjohnselora@gmail.com">curate.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a> |
| Director of Music:    | Dr. Patrick Murray             | <a href="mailto:music.stjohnselora@gmail.com">music.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>   |
| Organist:             | Jurgen Petrenko                |                                                                                  |
| Sexton and Caretaker: | Garry Cantlon                  | <a href="mailto:sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com">sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a> |

You can call any one of us at 519-846-5911.

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