

# The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Third Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2016 10:30 AM

*Please join heartily in this liturgy as we share in the joyful expectation of the coming again of Christmas.*

† = All who are able, please stand.

Congregational hymns/carols are found in the *Hymnal 1982 ('82)* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS)*.

BCP = the red Book of Common Prayer.

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**Voluntary** Choral Prelude on NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, BWV 599 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Sungyun Kim, organ scholar

†**Processional Hymn ('82) 102** *Once in royal David's city*  
stanza 1 Edy Dreith, solo | st 2 ALL | st 3 WOMEN | st 4 MEN | sts 5-6 ALL

†**Bidding Prayer**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Genesis 3:8-15 LECTOR Daren Grayton  
*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

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, '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.’

**Choir Carol** *Jesus Christ the apple tree*

WORDS anon.

MUSIC Howard Helvey (b 1968)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson** Genesis 22:15-18

LECTOR Mary McKnight

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

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.”

†**Congregational Hymn** (’82) 66 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson** Isaiah 7:10-15

LECTOR James Harrell

*God promises that a child shall be born who will be known as ‘God with Us.’*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.’

**Choir Carol** *Zion, at thy shining gates*

WORDS B. H. Kennedy (1804-1889)

MUSIC *melody from* Bohm Bruder (1566), *arranged by* George Guest (1924-2002)

**4<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Isaiah 11:1-9

LECTOR Florine Postell

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.*

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.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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.

†**Congregational Hymn ('82) 81** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*  
*stanza 1 Clifton Hardy, solo | stanzas 2-3 ALL*

**5<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Micah 5:2-4

LECTOR Suzanne Berger

*The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

†**Congregational Carol (LEVAS) 25** *That boy child of Mary*  
*refrain sung by ALL | verses sung by soloists: Michael Ratliff & Sharon Grayton*

**6<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 1:5-20, 57-66

LECTOR Rex Van Alstine

*St. Luke tells of the birth of John the Baptist.*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and

regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

**Choir Carol** *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

WORDS Traditional English Carol  
MUSIC John Gardner (1917-2011)

**7<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 1:26-38

LECTOR Maris Bernard

*The angel Gabriel announces to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she will bear the son of the Most High.*

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

†**Canticle** *Magnificat* (chanted by the Choir)

Anglican Chant by Henry Lawes (1595-1662)

*The Congregation (standing) sings the Antiphon before the Magnificat, and when indicated.*

*Antiphon*

Howard Helvey

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my spi-rit re-joic-es in God— my Sa-vior.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. **ANTIPHON**  
 He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty. **ANTIPHON**  
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
 The promise he made to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **ANTIPHON**

*Please be seated.*

**8<sup>th</sup> Lesson** Luke 2:1-14

**LECTOR** Edy Dreith

*The birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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!”

*Please remain seated for the following hymn.*

**Congregational Hymn ('82) 104** *A stable lamp is lighted*  
stanza 1 CHOIR only | stanzas 2-4 ALL

†9<sup>th</sup> Lesson John 1:1-14

LECTOR The Rev. Joanna Leiserson

*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. 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.

*Please be seated.*

**Piano Solo** *The Wexford carol*  
Howard Helvey, *piano*

Traditional Irish Melody, *arranged by* Howard Helvey



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Offertory: The People bring up the bread and wine, and the Lord's Table is set.*

**Offertory Congregational Hymn** (*while seated*) ('82) 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

†**Doxology (LEVAS) 112, stanza 4** *sung by ALL, standing, during the Presentation*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**Eucharistic Prayer D (BCP) 372**

## The Sanctus ('82) S-122

*After which, the people may stand or kneel.*

## The Lord's Prayer (BCP) 364

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence follows.*

**Fraction Anthem** *sung by ALL following the breaking of the Bread*

O Lamb of God, who takes a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Lamb of God, O  
Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us and grant us your peace.

Words: paraphrase of the Agnus Dei

Music: *Kingwood New*, Dan Forrest (b. 1978), © 2015 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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*(adapted for irregular meter of this paraphrase)*

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*The Celebrant invites the people to communion saying*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Receiving of the Sacrament

*We welcome you to the Lord's Table. All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the altar of the Lord. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

*Place your hands together to receive the bread. To receive the wine, take a sip from the chalice or retain the wafer and dip it into the wine. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the communion to you.*

Communion Choir Anthem *The work of Christmas*

WORDS Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

MUSIC Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

†Post Communion Prayer (BCP) 366

†Closing Prayer and Blessing

†Closing Hymn ('82) 72 *Hark! the glad sound!*

†The Dismissal *to which the People respond: Thanks be to God.*

Organ Voluntary *Chorale Prelude on ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HOH SEI EHR (All glory be to God on high)*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)



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The Rev. Joanna Leiserson, *Interim Rector*

The Rev. Dr. John A. Morrison

The Rev. Dr. Charles Washam

The Rev. Canon Wilson Willard, Jr.

The Rev. Dcn. Gary Givler

Howard Helvey, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Sungyun Kim, *Organ Scholar*

Edy Dreith, *Young Adult Ministries*

Sally Engelbert, *Director of Christian Education*

Hannah Teetor, *Intern*

Judy Gardner, *Parish Secretary*

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 3766 CLIFTON AVE. • CINCINNATI, OH 45220  
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