

A SERVICE OF
LESSONS & CAROLS



THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer (known as Christ Church) is the Episcopal Church in Pelham, New York. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion which is made up of 85 million people in over 165 countries and is the third largest Christian denomination in the world. Christ Church was founded in 1843 and is the first house of worship in Pelham. This building was consecrated on September 15, 1843, the original church building was expanded in 1910, and the sanctuary was reconstructed in 1968 to allow for the current, more intimate worship space. If you want to take a guided tour of our church and grounds after today's service, please speak to the rector, Father Matthew Mead.

Our congregation draws primarily from Pelham, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, and the Bronx, and includes people from diverse denominational and cultural backgrounds. Whether you are new to Christ Church or a long time member, you are invited to pray in our sacred spaces, join in our services of worship, and take an active role in the life and leadership of the parish. We give thanks and praise to God for your presence with us this morning!

Children of all ages are always welcome in church. A great place for children to see, hear and participate is in the front pews of the church. Also, childcare is available in the Nursery every Sunday during the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. Sunday School is offered during the academic year from September until June. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM each Sunday. After the children's service and Sunday School activities, the children join the rest of the congregation for the Holy Communion.

The Episcopal Church teaches that all baptized persons, including children and Christians from any denomination, are full members of the Body of Christ and are invited to participate in every aspect of the service and receive Holy Communion. Persons who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are also invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing.

If you believe God may be calling you to a new relationship with him through Jesus Christ we want to be of help. Whether you want to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, receive the laying on of hands by the bishop in the sacramental rite of Confirmation, or transfer your membership from another church or denomination, joining Christ Church is easy, just speak to Father Matthew Mead, Deacon Chisara Alimole, or our Administrator, Ms. Marie Main.

After the service concludes please join us for a Festive Reception. Next time you are online find and like us on Facebook or YouTube.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Advent is a season in which the Christian Church waits and watches. Through scripture, song and silence we hear again the story of God's people who longed for a Savior. Living in the reality that Jesus Christ has indeed come, that he has died and that he has risen, we await for his coming again in glory. Today we offer a service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

The service is Rite II adapted from the *Book of Occasional Services* and the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*. Some of the carols for congregation are taken from the *Hymnal 1982*, others are from older collections with familiar traditional texts. All copyright music reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net Number A713125 for the exclusive use of Christ Church, Pelham. Unauthorized duplication is prohibited by law. This service is being livestreamed and a recoding will be available on our YouTube page.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The word *carol* likely came into the English language from Latin (*carula*) by way of French (*carole*). The etymological root of the word is the word for a circular dance, an ancient custom in Northern Europe that predates the Christian era. The tradition of singing and dancing in a circle is still carried out in parts of England with the orchard-visiting wassail, where villagers gather around the dormant trees of an orchard in winter and sing to them in the hopes of producing a good harvest in the coming year. As such, the exact origins of caroling are lost in the mists of time, but the custom of carol singing has a long secular history in Northern Europe and around the world. As Europe was Christianized, many of the old pagan customs were absorbed into the agricultural rhythms of medieval folk piety and carols tied to the seasonal calendar became common.

There is some evidence in the medieval literature to suggest that priests and the educated religious wrote carols that alternated a Latin phrase from the liturgy with a text in the language common in their place of origin as a means of instructing illiterate peasants in the Christian faith. Good examples of this in English are the carols *Ding dong merrily on high!* and *In dulci jubilo!* (*Good Christian friends, rejoice!*) These *macaronic* carols were also a part of the repertoire of the traveling minstrels, who would often customize a verse or two of each carol to the specific town or village in which they were performing. Regardless of how these carols with religious subjects came to be composed, by the early 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi began to put on Nativity plays (the prototype for modern Christmas Pageants) which incorporated carol singing, and carols were also composed to accompany the Mystery and Passion plays that became a prominent feature of medieval life.

Nonetheless, and despite their popularity, the singing of carols in church was absolutely forbidden by the Roman Catholic Church in the Middle Ages, and the feast of Christmas was especially downplayed, since the clergy increasingly viewed the customary Christmas revelry as being profane debauchery. As the Romantic era took hold in Europe in the 19th century with its renewed interest in folk music and ethnic traditions, musicologists began collecting and publishing medieval carol tunes and texts, in turn inspiring poets and composers to create new carols that captured the flavor of those older ones (many familiar and beloved Christmas carols were actually composed during this period).

In 1880, Bishop Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, devised the first Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve services in the large wooden shed that was then serving as the temporary cathedral of Truro, while the Gothic Revival permanent cathedral structure was being built, bringing carol singing into the church once more. This service was revised in 1918 by the Rev'd Eric Milner White, Dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge University, and that now famous service has been held every Christmas Eve at King's College ever since, where it has served as a vehicle for popularizing carol singing as part of worship and has inspired countless composers to craft new choral carols for that chapel's magnificent choir. Because many schools are not in term during Christmas and the singing of Christmas carols has become so popular over the past century, the service of Lessons and Carols from the King's College model has become an Advent tradition throughout the English-speaking world.

Many of the carols we sing today were arranged by David Valentine Willcocks (1919-2015). Born in Newquay, Cornwall, he began his training as a boy chorister in the Westminster Abbey choir from 1929 until 1934. In 1939, Willcocks was appointed organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge University.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1941, he was conscripted into military service in the British Army and served throughout the war, distinguishing himself as a temporary captain in the Battle of Normandy.

He returned to Cambridge to complete his studies in 1945. In 1947, he was elected a Fellow of King's College and also became organist for Salisbury Cathedral. In 1950, he moved to Worcester Cathedral, where he remained until his appointment as Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge in 1957. It was during this period at King's that Willcocks's carol arrangements for the annual Lessons and Carols services began to be heard around the world in their radio and television broadcasts. They were subsequently published by Oxford University Press in the *Carols for Choirs* series of collected carols that he edited.

David Willcocks became the Director of the Royal College of Music in London in 1977, but he continued to make his mark on the singing of carols throughout the English-speaking world, and on the larger world of choral music, for the rest of his long life. To many, David Willcocks's carol arrangements are now the definitive versions of those carols, with their distinctive soaring descants and striking last-verse harmonizations. Most famously, the "Word" chord, found in the last verse of his arrangement of "O come, all ye faithful," is a much-anticipated Christmas delight in Anglican and Episcopal churches around the world (you'll have to come back on Christmas Eve for that), but his last verses for "O little town of Bethlehem" and "God rest ye merry, gentlemen," heard this evening, are close seconds in their powerful and captivating effect to paint the texts they set for every singer's ear.

For me, David Willcocks perfected the sound world of a traditional Anglican Christmas, and I cannot imagine a Christmas without these remarkable gems of the Christmas repertoire. I hope you will enjoy singing and listening to all of the music this evening, but my especial hope is that you will find that the thrill and comfort of these by now familiar arrangements will touch your heart once again with love for our Infant King, born on Christmas, who loves us all so much he came to be our Savior.

– Jeffrey Hoffman

PRELUDE

Chorale-Preludes on

“Vom Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her” (“From heaven on high to earth I come”), BWV 606

“Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schaar” (“From heaven came the angelic host”), BWV 607

by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

“A flight of angels” – Voluntary for a musical clock, HWV 600

by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

CAROL IN PROCESSION

All stand and sing the Carol as the Acolytes, Choir, and Clergy enter. A soloist begins and the choir alone sings the first verse. The soloist is Jeanmarie Lally.

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.

All join in singing.

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 Savior holy.**

4 **And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

3 **And thro’ all his wondrous childhood
He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

5 **Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Words: Sts. 1-3, 5-7, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895); st. 4 James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: *Irbj*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929), arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

A BIDDING PRAYER

All remain standing.

Father Matt Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves 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 look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs 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 our towns and cities. 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 sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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.**

Father Matt 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.

All **Amen.**

CAROL

All are seated while the choir sings the carol Tomorrow shall be my dancing day *by John Gardner (1917-2011). The percussionist is John Hastings.*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love,
O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love,
O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love,
O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love,
O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

– trad. English carol, collected in *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern (1833)* by William B. Sandys (1792-1874)

CAROL

All stand to sing the carol Of the Father's heart begotten, *melody from Piæ Cantiones (1592), arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015).*

low voices

1. Of the Father's heart begotten
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain,
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

high voices

2. By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

low voices

3. He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

high voices

4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

all voices

5. This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

all voices

6. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (c. 348-413); translated Robert Furley Davis (1866-1937)
Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapted *Pia Cantiones*, (1582); arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

CAROL

All remain seated while the choir sings the carol Adam lay ybounden, by Philip Ledger (1937-2012).

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter,
Thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our ladie,
Abeen heav'ne queen.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkes finden,
Written in their book.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen.
Deo gratias!

– early 15th century English lyric

THE 1ST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15; 17-19

All remain seated.

Reader

A reading from Genesis.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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.” 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; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 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.”
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

All remain seated while the choir sings the carol There is no rose of such virtue *by John Joubert (1927-2019).*

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia!

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. (Of equal form).

For in this rose contained was
Heav’n and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (Marvellous thing).

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth:
Transeamus. (We travel on).

– anonymous medieval lyric, (c. 1420)

CAROL

All stand and sing the Carol.

1 **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 blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

2 **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.**

3 **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.**

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859):
tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*

Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

2ND LESSON: ISAIAH 11:1-9

All are seated for the lesson.

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

All stand and sing the Carol.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!</p> | <p>2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!</p> |
| <p>3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!</p> | |

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), desc. adapted from Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795-1856)
by Jeffrey Hoffman (b. 1970)

CAROL

All remain seated while the choir sings the Carol A maiden most gentle, trad. French carol melody, arranged by Andrew Carter (b. 1939).

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child,
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
And marveled in awe at the babe in her care..
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless 'Ave.'
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

– words by Andrew Carter (b. 1939),
paraphrasing The Venerable Bede (c. 672-735)

THE 3RD LESSON: ISAIAH 7:10-15

All are seated.

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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 virgin 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."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

All remain seated while the choir sings the carol Angelus ad virginem, 14th century Irish carol, arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015).

Angelus ad virginem,
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit "Ave!
Ave, regina virginum:
Coeli terraeque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum."

*Gabriel to Mary came,
And entered at her dwelling,
With his salutation glad
Her maiden fears dispelling,
'All hail, thou Queen of virgins bright!
God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,
Thy very Son, Shall soon be born in pureness,
The Saviour of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,
The sinners' healer kind.*

“Quomodo conciperem,
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem,
Quae firma mente vovi?”
“Spiritus sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia.
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas
Secura, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.

“Ad haec, virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
“Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere
Dei consilio.”

Eia Mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini
Cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata,
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exsilium.

*How could I a mother be
That am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve,
My solemn vows endanger?
Pow'r from the Holy Ghost on high
Shall bring to pass this mystery.
Then have no fear: Be of good cheer,
Believing That still thy chastity
In God's almighty keeping
Shall all unsullied be.*

*Then to him the maid replied,
With noble mien supernal,
Lo! the humble handmaid I
Of God the Lord eternal!
With thee, bright messenger of heav'n,
By whom this wondrous news is giv'n,
I well agree And long to see
Fulfilled Thy gracious prophecy,
As God my Lord doth will it,
So be it unto me!*

*Hail! thou Mother of the Lord,
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,
Peace to angels and to men,
When Christ the Lord thou barest!
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
For us our long'd redemption
Himself to win, And from our sin
Release us; His succour for to give,
That, when we hence are taken,
We too in heav'n may live.*

– 14th century Irish carol;

trans. by Arthur Wallace Pickard-Cambridge (1873-1952), adapted

CAROL

All stand and sing the carol.

- 1 **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.**

- 2 **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.**

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

Words: Traditional carol

Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

THE 4TH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

All are seated.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

All stand and sing the Carol.

- 1 **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 **O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**
- 3 **How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 **O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: *Forest Green*, adapt. and arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) and Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

CAROL

The People are seated. The choir sings the carol 'The Cherry Tree Carol, trad. English carol arranged by Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019).

Joseph was an old man
And an old man was he,
When he wedded Mary,
In the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked
Through an orchard good,
Where was cherries and berries,
So red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary,
so meek and oh, so mild,
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph;
For I am with child.'

O then bespoke the baby,
Within his mother's womb:
'Bow down then the tallest tree,
For my mother to have some.'

Then bowed down the highest tree
Unto his mother's hand;
Then she cried, 'See, Joseph
I have cherries at command.'

O then bespoke Joseph,
'I have done Mary wrong;
But cheer up, my dearest,
And be ye not cast down.'

O then bespoke Joseph,
With words most unkind,
'Let him pluck thee a cherry
That brought thee with child.'

Then Mary plucked a cherry,
As red as any blood,
Then Mary she went homewards
All with her heavy load.

– anonymous 15th century lyric

THE 5TH LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18B-25A

The People remain seated for the lesson.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son.

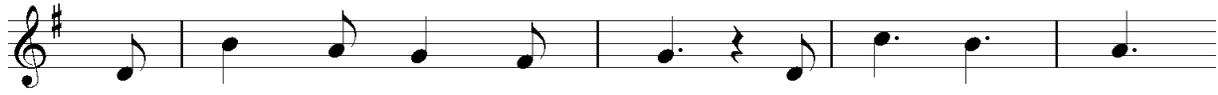
The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

All stand and sing the Carol.



1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,
3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;
4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;



when Christ our Lord was born On Christ - mas night. Ve -
that brought in - to this world the God made man. She
to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the
for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the
an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song, Ve -
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, to



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
ass and ox - en shared the roof with them. Ve -
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

Words: Source unknown, 19th cent.

Music: *Venite adoremus*, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

CAROL

The choir sings the carol Il est né le divin enfant, French traditional carol, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Il est né le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes!
Il est né le divin enfant,
Chantons tous son avènement!*

He is born, the Heav'nly Child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born, the Heav'nly Child,
Let all sing His nativity.

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous le promettaient les prophètes
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.
Il est né...

*'Tis four thousand years and more,
Prophets have foretold His coming.
'Tis four thousand years and more,
Have we waited this happy hour.
He is born...*

Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant!
Ah ! que ses grâces sont parfaites!
Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant!
Qu'il est doux ce divin enfant!
Il est né...

*Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,
What perfection is His graces.
Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,
Child divine, so gentle there.
He is born...*

Une étable est son logement
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,
Une étable est son logement
Pour un Dieu quel abaissement!
Il est né...

*In a stable lodged is He,
Straw is all He has for cradle.
In a stable lodged is He,
Oh how great humility!
He is born...*

O Jésus! O Roi tout-puissant
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,
O Jésus! O Roi tout-puissant,
Régnez sur nous entièrement!
Il est né...

*Jesus Lord, O King with power,
Though a little babe You come here.
Jesus Lord, O King with power,
Rule o'er us from this glad hour.
He is born...*

– French traditional carol, translated by Edward Bliss Reed (1872-1940)

THE 6TH LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

All are seated.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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!” 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The choir sings the spiritual Rise up, shepherd, and follow, an African-American spiritual, arranged by John Rutter (b. 1945).

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up shepherd and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Saviour's born;
Rise up shepherd and follow.
Refrain

If you take good heed to the angel's word,
Rise up shepherd and follow.
You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herd;
Rise up shepherd and follow.
Refrain

Refrain:
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
Rise up shepherd and follow;
Leave you sheep and leave your rams,
Rise up shepherd and follow.

Follow, follow,
Rise up shepherd and follow;
Follow the star of Bethlehem,
Rise up shepherd and follow.
– traditional African-American spiritual

CAROL SUNG BY ALL

All stand and sing the Carol.

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."
3. "To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
4. "The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6. “All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to me
Begin and never cease.”

Words: Nahum Tate, 1625-1715

Music: *Winchester Old*, melody from *The Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592, harm. in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1922;
fauxbourdon by Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1588-1635); last verse arr. by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

COLLECT

All remain standing.

Father Matt O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

All Amen.

GREETINGS FROM THE RECTOR

All remain seated for greetings from the Rector, Father Matthew Hoxsie Mead.

CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

An offering is taken as the choir sings the O holy night (Cantique de Noël) by Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. by John E. West (1863-1929) and Jeffrey Hoffman (b. 1970).

The solosists are soprano Jeanmarie Lally and tenor John Burke.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;	Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!	With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,	So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.	Here came the wise men from Orient land.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,	The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.	In all our trials born to be our Friend!
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!	He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!	Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!	Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

— “*Minuit, chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle,*” Placide Cappeau (1808-1877),
translated by John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)

BLESSING OF THE CONGREGATION

All remain standing.

Father Matt May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

CAROL IN PROCESSION

All stand and sing the Carol.

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain

2 From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

Refrain

3 The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicéd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed Babe to find:

Refrain

4 But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:

Refrain

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent.

Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

DISMISSAL

All remain standing.

Deacon Chisara

All

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God!

VOLUNTARY

Chorale-Prelude on "In dulci jubilo" ("Good Christians all rejoice"), BWV 729

by Johann Sebastian Bach

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH CHOIR

Kim de Beaumont, Allison Bodenmann, Jeff Bodenmann, John Burke*, Curtis Chase, Simon Cram*, Jann Degnan*, Denise Devoni-Liburd, Dennis Doran, Cheryl Greenhalgh, John Hastings, Margo Hastings, Mboti (Missy) Kisob, Jeanmarie Lally*, Jim Young, and Margaret Young

Jeffrey Hoffman, organist & director of music

*denotes professional chorister

CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE: DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM - FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST

*Procession, Blessing of the Christmas Crèche, Sermon, and Festival Eucharist (Rite 2)
with String Quartet, Organ, and The Christ Church Parish Choir*

10:00 PM - MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

*Procession, Blessing of the Christmas Crèche, Sermon, and Festival Eucharist (Rite 1)
with String Quartet, Organ, and The Christ Church Parish Choir*

CHRISTMAS DAY: DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM - HOLY EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

*with Soloists and Organ
Join us for a festive reception after the Christmas Day Eucharist*

Christ church

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Verger and Sexton*
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

Wardens & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
Mr. Jeff Bodenmann, *Senior Warden*
Ms. Carol Ipsen, *Junior Warden*
Ms. Allison Bodenmann, *Treasurer*
Mr. John Fox, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ms. Jean Gruener, *Clerk*

Ms. Jennifer Hawks Bland	Ms. Etta Gumbs
Mr. Andy Des Rault	Mr. Jack Kraft
Mr. Stephen Dolan	Mr. Robert Landis
Mr. John Fox	Ms. Courtney McGrory
Ms. Barbara Zambelli	

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.
Morning Prayer is read on, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

† A Parish of the Diocese of New York †

Christ Church

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
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*Christ Church Pelham is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition.
As members of the Body of Christ, we are dedicated to spiritual growth
and committed to serving God through worship and
service to our community and the world.*