

The Church of Saint Joseph

Presents

An Advent Celebration of Readings and Carols



Sunday, December 2, 2018

6:00 p.m.

**Church of Saint Joseph
High Bridge, New Jersey**

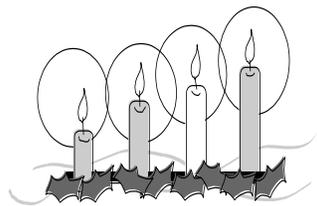
~Welcome to our Advent Celebration of Readings and Carols~

Our wish for you is that your hearts and minds will be more receptive to the wonder of the coming Christmas season after having participated in this Advent Celebration.

To facilitate this, please make sure to turn off all cellular phones and other electronic devices before the program and please stay in place for the duration of the service.

All are invited to join heartily in the singing of carols found in the program and to stand where indicated by an *, if you are able.

Please join us at the conclusion of the program for fellowship and a festive holiday reception downstairs in the Church Hall.



~The Origins of the service of Readings and Carols~

The concept of tonight's program finds its origins in the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** made famous by the Christmas Eve service at Kings College, Cambridge. The service was conceived by F. W. Benson, the Bishop of Truro Cathedral who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury. The service was used for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1880 and as its popularity grew, it was formally adapted at Kings College in 1918 by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of Kings College. Since 1918, the service has been aired live by the BBC on Christmas Eve throughout the world.

In 1934, Eric Milner-White composed another order of service, a **Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday**. In the same format as the original Nine Lessons and Carols, the purpose of this service was to "not celebrate Christmas, but to expect it".

Both services combine scripture and music in an intimate way to tell the story of the expectation and birth of Christ. It was Milner-White's belief that the scripture lessons were the backbone of the service and the "handmaid of the liturgy".

Tonight we adapt these two liturgies for this time, this space and this community. May your hearts and minds find openness to the coming of the Savior through these Readings and Carols.

An Advent Celebration of Readings and Carols

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6:00 p.m.

The St. Joseph's choir dedicates this concert to the memory of Peter Mckenna. Pete was tenor in our choir who passed away suddenly in late October. Pete was a soft-spoken man whose easy disposition belied the great talent he shared with our parish for several years. When not singing, Pete, on guitar, and his wife Meg, on flute, made beautiful music together that enhanced our liturgies, notably these Advent Services. We may have an empty chair in the choir but our hearts are full of the beautiful music and many memories he gave us.

Prelude Music

Verbum caro factum est

Word made flesh, We welcome You

15th Century English Carol

Edited by Richard Proulx

*Verbum caro factum est
Habitavit in nobis
Alleluia*

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.
Alleluia

*Notum fecit Dominus
Salutare suum
Alleluia*

The Lord hath made known
His salvation.
Alleluia

*Prope invocavit me
Pater meus es tu
Alleluia*

Nigh to me, he called unto me,
Thou art my Father.
Alleluia

*OPENING CAROL IN PROCESSION

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Rowland Hugh Prichard

Charles Wesley

Choir and Congregation

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 ev'ry longing heart.

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.

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 ev'ry longing heart.

***THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Father James Krypczak

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE INVITATORY CAROL

"A Tiny Child will Come"

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Soon a tiny child will come, as prophets have foretold, a tiny babe whose humble birth will warm the winter cold. He will warm the winter cold.

Soon a tiny child will come, God's promise to fulfill, to live among us here on earth and do his father's will.

But will we know him when he comes, this little tiny king? Will our hearts and minds be open to the joy He brings?

Soon a tiny child will O come. Prepare to let him in, for he alone can make us whole, and free the world from sin; He will free the world from sin.

And now the world awaits the news; we know the time is near. Soon a star will light the winter sky to show he is here!

Soon a tiny child will come, a gift from God above, to teach us all to live in peace, and fill our lives with love.

He will teach us how to love!

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

Sophia Desire

Anthem

"Comfort, Comfort O My People"

Geneva (1551)

*Comfort, Comfort, O my people, Speak of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning' neath their sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that wait for them;
Tell of all the sins I cover, And that war-fare now is over.*

*Hark, the voice of one who's crying In the desert far and near,
Biding all to full repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet Him.*

*O make straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.*

THE SECOND READING

Catechetical Instruction by St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Michael Mosier

Anthem

"He Comes to Us in Darkness"

In the darkness we are waiting for the coming of the Light. We are breathless in our yearning in the deep and endless night. Ev'ry heart is still and silent like the hush before the morn. Come to all who wait in darkness; in each longing heart be born. Emmanuel, Emmanuel. O Come, Emmanuel.

He will come in darkness in the prison of our shame, in the winter of our sorrow, where we languish in our pain. When the loneliness of midnight is too great for us to bear, He will come in darkness. We will find him waiting there. Emmanuel, Emmanuel. O Come, Emmanuel.

All the world is held in silence in the cradle of the night. Turned away, in need of shelter, comes God's pure and holy Light. Taking refuge in a stable, in a dismal cattle stall; Jesus comes to us in darkness, that is where He finds us all.

THE THIRD READING

Zechariah 2:14-17
Mary Speckin

Anthem

“Advent Glad Song”

Suzanne Toolan, RSM

Heartily rejoice, rejoice! Shout for joy, O Zion, shout for joy, shout for joy, O Zion, shout for joy! O heartily rejoice, O daughter, daughter of Jerusalem.

A herald's voice in the dessert; Make ready the way of the Lord. His path make straight, the Lord will come to us.

Make ready the way of the Lord!

Ev'ry valley shall be filled, Make ready the way of the Lord. His path make straight. The rough ways will be smooth. Make ready the way of the Lord.

Ev'ry mountain shall be leveled. Make ready the way of the Lord. His path make straight. And we shall see our God! Make ready the way of the Lord.

THE FOURTH READING

Pastoral Letter by St Charles Borromeo
Lindsay Kinsky

Anthem

“The King Shall Come”

Robert Leaf
John Brownlie

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks. When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes. Not as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die; But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

THE FIFTH READING

Isaiah 7:10-14
Ella Voorhees

Anthem

“You Raise Me Up”

Rolf Lovland
BrendanGraham

Be still my soul! The Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to your God to order and provide; In ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while he dwell below.

When I am down and oh my soul, so weary; When troubles come and my heart burdened be; Then I am still and wait here in the silence Until You come and sit awhile with me.

You Raise me up so I can stand on mountain. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas I am strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me up to more than I can be.

There is no life, no life without its hunger. Each restless heart beats so imperfectly. But when You come, and I am filled with wonder, Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.

THE SIXTH READING

**Sermon by St Gregory Nazianzen
Erica Buckley**

Anthem

“Magnificat”

David Haas

“All that I am, sings of the God who brings new life to birth in me. My spirit soars on the wings of my Lord

My soul gives glory to the Lord, rejoicing in my saving God; Who looks upon me in my state, and all the world will call me blest; For God works marvels in my sight, and holy, holy is God’s name.

God’s mercy is from age to age, on those who follow in fear; Whose arm is power and strength, and scatters all the proud of heart; Who casts the mighty from their thrones, and raises up the lowly ones.

God fills the starving with good things, the rich are left with empty hands; Protecting all the faithful ones, remembering Israel with mercy the promise known to those before, and to their children forever

***Advent Gospel Acclamation**

***THE SEVENTH READING**

Mark 1:1-15
Father James Kyrpczak

***Advent Gospel Acclamation**

ANTHEM

“Acclamation of Assurance”

Joseph Martin

Through the valley I will keep you. In the shadows I am light. In the darkness I will lead. My word will be your sight. Through the tears of loss I’ll comfort you. Through the years I’ll keep you strong. Within the silence of the night, my grace will be your song.

And you will be my people. I will be your Rock! You will be my church forever. I will be your God!

When the trials of life bring fire and rain. I will keep you in my heart. I will help you live again. Through grace the healing starts. I’m the Promise of tomorrow. I’m the One who will remain. I’m the Hope for ev’ry sorrow, and Peace beyond the storm.

And you will be my people. I will be your Rock! You will be my church forever. I will be your God!

The plans I have for you are bright with promise, for I have written you upon my hand. I will be with you all the journey. I’ll take you to the promise land!

And you will be my people. I will be your Rock! You will be my church forever. I will be your God!

***THE CLOSING PRAYER**

***THE BLESSING**

CLOSING ANTHEM

“Down to the River to Pray/Lord, Listen to Your Children”

Traditional Spiritual
Ken Medema

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

O Lord, listen to your children prayin'. O Lord, send your Spirit in this place. O Lord, listen to your children prayin', send us love, send us power, send us grace.

*Something's gonna happen like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.
A door's gonna swing open and the walls come a tumbling down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

O children, let's go down, let's go down, come on, down. O children, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

O Lord, listen to your children prayin'. O Lord, send your Spirit in this place. O Lord, listen to your children prayin', send us love, send us power, send us grace.

~Please join us for a reception in the Church hall at the conclusion of the program~

~A free-will monetary offering will be received. Baskets are located at the entrance of the Church. Proceeds will help defray the cost of this celebration. Thank you for your generosity~

Festival Leaders and Acknowledgements

Father James Kyrpczak, Administrator
Deacon Tom McGovern

Music Ministry

Dolores Savare, Director

Accompanists:

Chris Leyesa Piano
Lily Ayotte Flute

The Parish Choir

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
Lauren Brighton	Lily Ayotte	Mike Krochta	Manuel García
Michelle Fortier	Jena Latriano	Deacon Tom McGovern	Blaise Latriano
Melinda Hanisch	Erin Palma	Tom Newman	Frank Pumillo

Upcoming Events at St. Joseph

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 (Children's Choir), 7:00 and Midnight
Choir Concert ~ featuring the musician of the parish, at 11:45 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Special Thanks to:

Father James for his untiring support of our Music Ministry

All the musicians and readers and their families who give of their time and talent so generously
to the Glory of God

Fran Rapp and the Hospitality Committee for preparing the reception following the concert