



Zanobi Strozzi (1412–1468) / *Initial Q with a Procession of Children*, c. 1430s / tempera and gold leaf on parchment / National Gallery of Art, Woodner Collection, Gift of Dian Woodner 2013.130.1

While this image originally functioned to introduce a liturgy for a season other than Advent, it depicts a different kind of “dawn chorus” that resonates with several of our recent readings: “The wolf shall live with the lamb...and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6) and “The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.” (Isaiah 35:10a). This sheet once belonged to one of the most richly decorated manuscripts painted in Italy in the first half of the 15th century, the four-volume *Diurno Domenicale* produced for the Camaldolese monastery of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Florence. Manuscripts with decorations by Zanobi Strozzi, whom scholars consider one of the most important illuminators of his generation, are rare; only about a dozen and half remain today.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean. His experience as an army chaplain convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. He based the King's service on earlier examples from Truro Cathedral. It began to be broadcast by the BBC in 1928. From there, this simple celebration of the Christmas Story, with alternating scripture readings and carols, has become a beloved Christmas tradition. Thank you for joining us today to begin preparations for Christmas!

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Music for Flute, Piano, and Guitar

Greensleeves

Brissa Fraire, *flute*

Arr. Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Sonatina II: Andante

Benjamin Richardson, *guitar*

F. M. Torroba (1891-1982)

Hymn 81 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery 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*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

Then follows this bidding prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; 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 goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church he came to build, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name all who are poor and helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and 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 this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

The Blessing

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Perrin Nicolson

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

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.' 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.'

Thanks be to God.

Chant *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
Jesus, Redeemer, save us all, and hear your servants when they call.
Now grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
You heal all those who need your grace, and come to save our fallen race.
You came when old world drew t'wards night, appearing not in princely might,
But born of Mary mother mild, became the victim undefiled.
At your great name majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
All things in heav'n and earth adore, and own you, King, forevermore.
Great judge of all in that last day, be present then, with us we pray:
Your scattered people, Lord, unite, in vict'ry over Satan's might!
Gloria patri.

Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, arr. Richard Robert Rossi
Words: Latin, 9th C. Tr. by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Second Lesson

Madison Redden

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

Genesis 22: 15-18

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.'

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Be still and know that I am God.
I'll be exalted among all nations,
I'll be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us,
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Music: Jennifer Canfield (b. 1955)
Words: Psalm 46: 10-11

Third Lesson

Jerry Mullinax

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational Carol The desert shall rejoice

from *Wonder, Love and Praise*

The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose: 1. It shall
2. For the
3. For the
4. For the

blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943). Music: *Sterling*, Joy F Patterson (b. 1931).

Fourth Lesson

Marquette McKnight

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

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. 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.

Thanks be to God.

During the singing of this carol we will receive an offering to be shared by the Music and Children's Fund.

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Luke 1: 26-35, 38

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 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. 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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

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

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

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
the Lord of creation, and Savior of all.
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

Music: Andrew Carter (b. 1939)
Words: The Venerable Bede (d. 735)

Sixth Lesson

Brian Walker

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

St. Luke 2: 1-7

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol What child is this?

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here the silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh come peasant king to own Him,
the King of kings salvation brings let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Music: Greensleeves, arr. Jennifer Canfield (b. 1955)

Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Seventh Lesson

Melissa James

The shepherds go to the manger.

St. Luke 2: 8-16

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol *Quittez, pasteurs* (Come, leave your sheep)

Come, leave your sheep, your flocks in pastures feeding; O shepherds, hear the message of good cheer. No longer weep; the angel tidings heeding, rise up and come away: Our Lord is born this joyful day.

Behold your King within a simple stable in human form; no bed to keep him warm. Your praises bring to God, whose love is able to care for all his sheep, Fear not, the faithful shepherd watch will keep.

O sages three, arrayed in royal splendor, your homage pay: a King is born this day. The star you see its radiance must surrender before our Sun most bright. Bring gifts to offer in his sight.

Come, Holy Ghost, eternal fount of blessings, our souls inspire with pure celestial fire, the angel host, its praise to God expressing, sings out to greet the birth: 'Rejoice! Our heav'nly Lord brings peace on earth.'

Music: French traditional carol, arr. Stephen Cleobury, CBE (1948-2019)
Words: Traditional French, tr, John Rutter, CBE (b. 1945)

Eighth Lesson

Laura Perkins

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

St. Matthew 2: 1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Three great Kings I met at early morn with all their retinue were slowly marching;
three great kings I met at early morn were on their way to meet the newly-born.

And valiant warriors to guard the royal treasure, their shields all shining in their bright array,
with gifts of gold brought from far away.

Music: *De matin ai rescountra lou trin*, arr. Mark Schweizer (1956 -2019)
Words: French carol

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Ninth Lesson

The Rev. Roxane Gwyn

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

St. John 1: 1-14

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol *Lullaby to the Christ Child* (Cancao de Ninar)

Brissa Fraire, *flute*;
Benjamin Richardson, *guitar*

A gentle breeze passes calmly and stills the evening sky,
A loving mother, so adoring, sings a lullaby.
Go to sleep my little darling, sleep soundly my dear,
The dark night surrounds us, but we will have no fear.

The woolly lambs also, love thee; they rest as you sleep,
While hosts of angels hover closely, their vigil keep.
Go to sleep, my darling, sleep soundly, my dear,
The dark night surrounds us, but we will have no fear.

In a manger, the Lord Jesus, only hay for a bed.
The stars a glow in heaven form a wreath about his head.
Go to sleep now, little baby, Go to sleep.

Music: Brazilian Folk Song, arr. George L. Mabry (b. 1945)
Words: tr. from Portuguese by Martha Williams and George L. Mabry

The Prayers

The Very Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn 83 O Come All Ye Faithful

Adeste fidelis

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: *Adeste fidelis*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Voluntary *The Sussex Carol*

Brissa Fraire, *flute*

arr. Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)

Music: Francis Jackson (b. 1917); Words: English, 17th cent.

*Please join us in All Saints Hall for our Wassail Bowl Party.
The Children's Christmas Party is in the Youth Room.*

The Choir of St. Thomas Church
Rick McKnight, *Organist and Choirmaster*

The Pageant is lovingly portrayed by the St. Thomas Episcokids
Joseph – Darius Sudayi
Mary – Anna Sudayi
Jesus – Teddie Betty Sudayi

Thanks to Jonathan Frederick Walz, PhD., Director of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of American Art at The Columbus Museum for selecting and describing the art for our Christmas bulletins.

Announcements

Christmas Eve Services: Two nearly identical services with Eucharist, candlelight, and the Christmas story. Children's chapel and nursery care are offered at the 5:30 service only. Incense will be used at the 10:30 service only. The 5:30 service will be livestreamed.

Christmas Day Worship: One service at 10:30 am with lots of Christmas carols, no sermon, and Eucharist. Rev. Grace will play piano to give Rick the morning off. If anyone else would like to offer special music, let us know. No nursery, children's chapel, or coffee hour on this day. This service will not be livestreamed.

Feast of the Holy Name (January 1): One service at 10:30 with more carols, a sermon, and Eucharist. No nursery, children's chapel, or coffee hour on this day. This Feast Day in the church remembers the naming of Jesus. This service will be livestreamed.

Baptism at St. Thomas: Sunday, January 8. Baptism of Our Lord - As we remember the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, we also welcome all to be baptized on this day. Contact Rev. Grace to schedule Baptism.

Year-end Gifts: St. Thomas welcomes year-end gifts of cash or stock transfer to help us end the year on a strong footing. Gifts to the St. Thomas Endowment are also welcome and will have an impact on ministry at St. Thomas for years to come. Contact Patty Slembariski in the church office with any questions: 706.324.4264 or patty@stthomascolumnbus.org. Contributions for 2022 must be postmarked or received in the office by noon on December 30, 2022. You may also give online at stthomascolumnbus.org/give or by texting STTCOLUMBUS to 73256.

Thanks to all who donated coats for Boxwood soccer players and household goods for families. Your generosity is appreciated!

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