

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Collinsville, CT

December 31, 2023

9:00 a.m.

## A Christmas Festival of



## LESSONS *and* CAROLS

*MISSION STATEMENT: "With God's love, we joyfully welcome and nourish all; with God's help, we serve our community and beyond."*

Please take this service leaflet with you when you leave.



## Welcome to Trinity

We are delighted to welcome you this morning to our Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Please know that your presence and your prayers are a beloved gift to this faith community. We pray that you sense the love of Christ, the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and God's presence as we worship together on this Holy Night.

*Note: We continue to set aside pews on the right side of the church for those who prefer to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.*

### Live-Streaming on the Web

To join our services by live-streaming, go to our website:

[www.TrinityCollinsville.org](http://www.TrinityCollinsville.org)

Scroll down to the section that says "*Join us on Sundays*", click on "*Worship with Us*", then click on the service to watch.

From "*Join us on Sundays*", you can also access the Bulletins and Readings for the service and the Book of Common Prayer.



## A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

We hope that the scripture readings, music and hymns in this service will warm your hearts and bring you peace and assurance of God's love for you through the gift of His Son, Jesus, born in Bethlehem.

The first Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols service took place in 1880 in Truro, England in a wooden shed that was serving as a cathedral while a new church was being constructed. The Bishop of Truro, E.W. Benson, wanted to create a service that told in a simple and beautiful way, the story of Christ's birth, the prophecies that foretold it, and the joy of those who learned of His birth.

In 1918, King's College, in Cambridge, England designed their Lessons and Carols service. And in 1928, King's College began broadcasting the service, which is heard around the world every Christmas Eve.



## Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 31, 2023

*(Hymns will be sung using the red hymnals in the pew racks.)*

### Prelude

Opening Hymn    *O Come, All Ye Faithful (V. 1, 2, 3)*                      #83

### Welcome

### The Bidding Prayer

**Presider:**            Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the 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 make this place glad with our carols 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 for which he died, and especially in this country and within this town.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the 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.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**



## *The Lessons and Carols*

### Lesson I

A Reading from Genesis 3:1-15                      Reader: Leslie Dehey  
*"Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the  
Garden of Eden."*

**Reader:**            The Word of the Lord.

**People:**            Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:**    *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*                      #66

### Lesson II

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7                      Reader: Elaine Eno  
*"Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah."*

**Reader:**            The Word of the Lord.

**People:**            Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:**    *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*                      #56 v. 1, 7, 8

### Lesson III

A Reading from Isaiah 11:1-9                      Reader: Phyllis Lowell  
*"The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown."*

**Reader:**            The Word of the Lord.  
**People:**            Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*                      #81

### Lesson IV

A Reading from Luke 1:26-38                      Reader: Sharon Corthouts  
*"The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary."*

**Reader:**            The Word of the Lord.  
**People:**            Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*    #265 v. 1, 2, 4

### Lesson V

A Reading from Luke 2:1-7                      Reader: Chris Greene  
*"St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus."*

**Reader:**            The Word of the Lord.  
**People:**            Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      #79 v. 1, 2, 5

## Lesson VI

Reader: Ann Bierut

A Reading from Luke 2:8-16

*"The shepherds go to the manger"*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* #94

## Lesson VII

A Reading from Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Maryellen Prudhomme

*"The wise men are led by the star to Jesus."*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* #128 v. 1, 2, 5

*Here ends the Lessons and Carols*





*Please stand for the Alleluia verse and the Gospel.*



Al-le-lu-ia; A-lle-lu-ia; Al-le-lu-ia.

## The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-18

**Presider:** The Holy Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph<sup>h</sup> got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,<sup>i</sup> he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.<sup>j</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

**Choir Anthem     *The Shepherd's Farewell***

Hector Berlioz

**The Nicene Creed (in unison)**

BCP 358

**We believe in one God**, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation** he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again** in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

## **Choral Call to Prayer**    *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

Words and Music: Francesco Blackmore

### **The Prayers of the People**

Form IV BCP p. 388

Reader: Jonathan Eno

**Reader:**        Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your  
Name may be united in your truth, live together  
in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:**        **Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:**        Guide the people of this land, and of all the  
nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we  
may honor one another and serve the common  
good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Reader:** We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**People** Hear our prayer.

**Reader:** We pray especially for those on our intercession list \_\_\_\_\_, and for those named here (pause for the congregation to add their intercessions).

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** Let us pray for our congregation and our Vestry as we seek a new priest for our faith community. Guide us and give us wisdom and patience, that we may discern your will for us, and that we will call a priest who will inspire us, care for us and bring us closer to you.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, let us pray for St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville; St. Mark's, Bridgeport; and for

soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** Let us pray for peace in the world:  
God of peace and justice, we pray for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. We pray for all in these wars who have died, are wounded or missing. We pray for all who grieve, live in fear, and wait anxiously for the return of their loved ones. We pray for those who protect and defend our country. May your kingdom of justice and peace reign throughout the world. Amen.

**Presider:** O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Offering

**Presider:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave of himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offertory Hymn:** *Joy to the World*

#100

## The Doxology

Hymn 380 Verse 3

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

**Presider:** All things come of thee, O Lord,

**People:** and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

**Presider:** And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**The Lord's Prayer** *(in unison)*

BCP 364

**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.

## The Peace

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with. You.

## Announcements

Karanne Farling

## The Blessing

**Presider:** May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our hearts with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give us his peace and favor. **Amen.**



And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: ***Go Tell it on the Mountain*** #99

## The Dismissal

**Presider:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

**People:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Postlude

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# The Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp are Given to the Glory of God

## **Celebrating the Worship Service:**

The People of God gathered in Trinity Church and at home

**Presider:** Karanne Farling

**Ushers:** Deb Asaro and Ann Bierut

**Music:** Francesco Blackmore and  
the Trinity Choir

**Altar Guild:** Deb Asaro and Ann Bierut

## **Readers and Committee Represented:**

Jonathan Eno	Acolytes
Phyllis Lowell	Altar Guild
Sharon Corthouts	Outreach
Chris Greene	Choir
Ann Bierut	Readers
Elaine Eno	Ushers
Maryellen Prudhomme	Vestry
Leslie Dehey	Worship

*Wishing You and Your  
Loved Ones a Healthy  
and Happy New Year!*

# THE PARISH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[www.TrinityCollinsville.org](http://www.TrinityCollinsville.org)

## WORSHIP

Sundays at 9 a.m.– Livestreamed / In-Person  
*Please visit our website for more information*

## STAFF

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Lisa Bogush – Treasurer  
Heather Garvin – Clerk  
2024: Paul Atkins, Ken Jones, Jim Stapleton  
2025: Ann McAdoo, Mimi McGill  
2026: Jack Henne

## TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL – 860-693-4615

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