



ADVENT

LESSONS
& CAROLS

2025

The Incarnation Choir

The Incarnation Choristers

Mr. Christopher Jacobson, *Director of Music*

Mr. Owen Reid, *Associate Director of Music*

COVER ART

Annunciation, 1920 Missale Romanum

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

We respectfully ask for silence during the organ voluntary.

Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from recording. Thank you.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ave Maria — Ave Maris Stella, Op. 5, N° 1

Jean Langlais (1907–1991)

All stand for the Introit.

INTROIT

Aspiciens a longe Adapted from G. P. Palestrina (c. 1525–1594)

- ✠ I look from afar:
- ✠ and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
- ✠ Go ye out to meet him and say:
- ✠ Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
- ✠ High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
- ✠ Go ye out to meet him and say:
- ✠ Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.
- ✠ Tell us, art thou he that should come?
- ✠ Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
- ✠ to reign over thy people Israel.
- ✠ Glory be to thy Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
- ✠ I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
- ✠ Go ye out to meet him and say:
- ✠ Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

HYMN

Puer Nobis Nascitur

Choir 1 Come, thou re - deem - er of the earth, and man - i -
Choir 2 Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the
All 3 The vir - gin womb that bur - den gained With vir - gin
4 Forth from His cham - ber go - eth He, That roy - al
5 From God the Fa - ther He pro - ceeds, To God the
6 O e - qual to the Fa - ther, Thou! Gird on Thy
7 Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, And dark - ness
8 All laud to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e -

-fest thy vir - gin - birth: Let ev - 'ry age a -
Spir - it, Thou art still The Word of God in
hon - or all un - stained; The ban - ners there of
home of pu - ri - ty, A giant in two - fold
Fa - ther back He speeds; His course he runs to
flesh - ly man - tle now; The weak - ness of our
breathe a new - er light, Where end - less faith shall
-ter - nal Son, to Thee; All glo - ry as is

-dor - ing fall, Such birth be - fits the God of all.
flesh ar - rayed, The prom - ised fruit to man dis - played.
vir - tue glow; God in His tem - ple dwells be - low.
sub - stance one, Re - joic - ing now His course to run.
death and hell, Re - turn - ing on God's throne to dwell.
mor - tal state With death - less might in - vi - go - rate.
shine se - rene, And twi - light nev - er in - ter - vene.
ev - er meet, To God the Ho - ly Par - a - clete.

Words: attr. to Ambrose of Milan (340–397); tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866)
Music: *Puer Nobis Nascitur*, 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

THE BIDDING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER



LOVED in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all men and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and goodwill upon the earth: that we may be a sign of the age to come. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us: 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 Officiant continues

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.**

All sit.

INVITATORY CAROL

HOSANNA to the Son of David.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the King of Israel.
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places.
Hosanna in the highest heavens.

Words: Matthew 21:9

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:1–15

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

NOW the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

CAROL

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

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

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
Abeen heavene queen.

Blessed by the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo Gracias!

Words: 15th cent. English

Music: Boris Ord (1897–1961)

THE SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1–11

God comforts his people.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

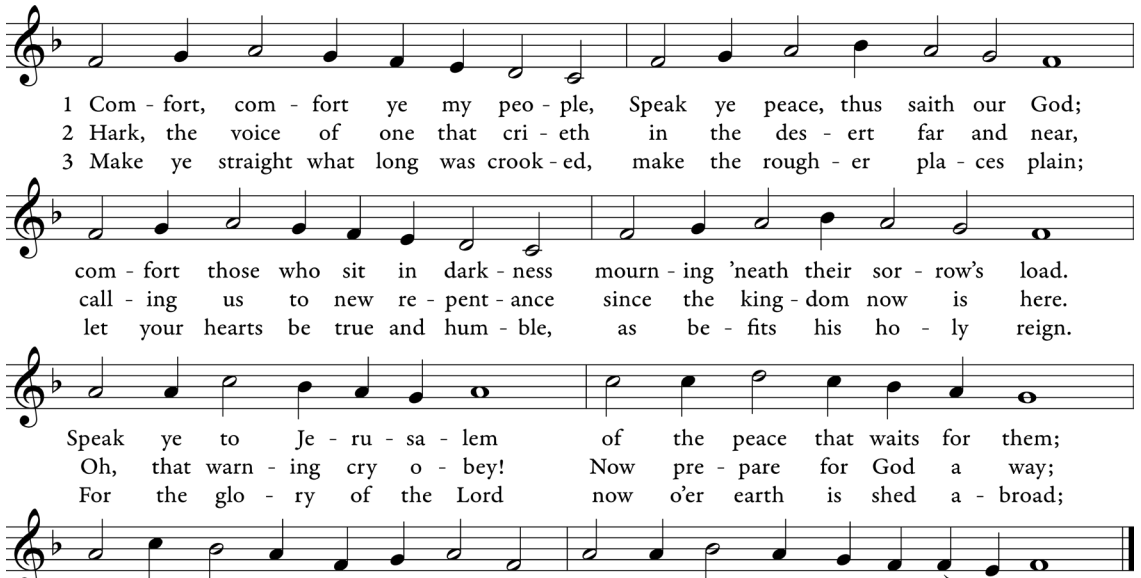
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

All stand.

HYMN

Genevan 42



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

Tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth
Music: *Genevan 42*, Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva 1551

THE THIRD LESSON

JEREMIAH 31:31–34

A new covenant is promised.

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

CAROL

A SPOTLESS Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For, through our God's great love and might,
The blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Words: 14th century German, tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

THE FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

The prophet proclaims God will come and save us.

THE wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

CAROL

O THOU the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917)

Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)

THE FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear a son.

AND in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

CAROL

I SING of a maiden
That is makëless;
King of all kingës
To her son she ches.

He came all so stillë
Where his mother lay,
As dew in Aprillë
That falleth on the spray.

He came all so stillë
There his mother was,
As dew in Aprillë
That falleth on the grass.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddës mother be

He came all so stillë
To his mother's bow'r,
As dew in Aprillë
That falleth on the flow'r.

Words: Anonymous, 15th century

Music: Lennox Berkeley (1903–1989)

All stand.

COLLECT AND BLESSING

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MAY Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

VESPER RESPONSORY

Judea et Jerusalem

Adapted from G. P. Palestrina

- ℣ Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
℞ Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
℣ Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
℞ Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
℣ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
℞ Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

HYMN (*overleaf*)

HYMN

Helmsley



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scen - ding,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him,
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, A - men! let all a - dore thee,



Once for our sal - va - tion slain;
Robed in dread - ful ma - je - sty;
Still his dazz - ling bo - dy bears,
High on thine e - ter - nal throne;



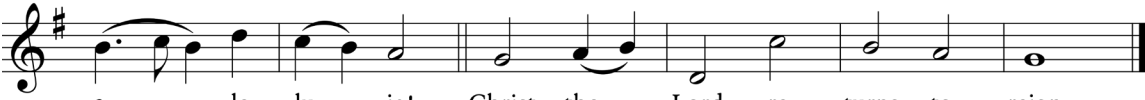
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - ten - ding
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;



Swell the tri - umph of his train:
Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
To his ran - somed wor - ship - ers:
Claim the king - dom for thine own:



A - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia,
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



a - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture, Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1758, *alt*
Music: *Helmsley*, Thomas Olivers, 1763; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Improvisation