The Curate: Advent Lessons and Carols, Holiday Dinner & Pageant, an...
About Advent Lessons and Carols

The “lessons and carols” format originated in England 100 years ago as the famous “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” still broadcast worldwide each Christmas Eve from King’s College Chapel, Cambridge. Advent Lessons and Carols is one adaptation of this simple and effective pattern, and it takes as its theme the ancient promise to the Jewish people that God would send a Messiah (“anointed one”) to redeem Israel. The themes and images of Advent are explored and brought to life in a rich tapestry of short readings from the Bible interspersed with carols, choral music, and congregational hymns.

A distinctive feature of Advent Lessons and Carols is the singing by the choirs of the Great “O” Antiphons. (An antiphon is a short sentence sung with a Psalm or Canticle to focus our attention on a particular theme or season.) The O Antiphons probably originated in the eighth century, used with the Magnificat at Vespers on the days of Advent just preceding Christmas. Each “O” addresses the longed-for Messiah with a specific title or image from the Old Testament: “O Wisdom,” “O Root of Jesse,” “O Emmanuel.” The O Antiphons underline the yearning for Christ’s coming which we will at last celebrate on Christmas Day, and they remind us that our faith and hope as Christians is deeply rooted in the prophecies of Hebrew Scripture.

-Jack Burnam

The Annual Holiday Covered Dish Dinner takes place immediately after Lessons and Carols, in the Parish Hall. Please bring a side dish or a dessert; St. Anne’s Guild will provide Ham, Turkey Breast, and drinks. Also included in the evening’s festivities—Immanuel’s unique and not-to-be-missed Christmas Pageant!
LITURGY AND MUSIC NOTES

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

The readings for the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent focus on the role of the prophets who foresaw the coming of the Messiah who would bring deliverance and restoration to Israel. John the Baptist, whose message of repentance and baptism ended nearly four hundred years of prophetic silence, was the personification of that role. In the spirit of the prophet Elijah he proclaimed a fiery vision of God’s judgment close at hand: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” John is a transitional figure, representing the culmination of the law and the prophets even as he heralds the inbreaking of the kingdom of God.

Today’s Offertory Anthem, Canite tuba in Sion (“Sound the trumpet in Zion”) draws on multiple references from the Old Testament prophets to reflect these themes. The composer, Francisco Guerrero was a 16th century priest and composer, and a contemporary of Victoria and Morales. His music is notable for its vivid portrayal of an astonishing range of moods. This particular composition provides an especially good example, as each line of text receives a dramatically different musical treatment.

The organ voluntaries that frame today’s Liturgy are a pair of contrasting chorale preludes by J. S. Bach, based on the final hymn of the service: Hymn 54, “Savior of the nations, come.” This hymn is actually one of the oldest in the Hymnal 1982. Both text and tune are by Martin Luther—Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland in the original German—translated and adapted by him in 1523 from the far older fourth-century Latin hymn, Veni redemptor gentium. The hymn is a meditation on the paradox of Jesus’s obscure and lowly birth, contrasted with the cosmic significance of his death and resurrection, thus reflecting the multiple themes of Advent: the coming of Christ in human form, his coming to us today in our hearts and lives, and his final coming in glory at the end of time.

A “chorale prelude” is a short piece based on a chorale or hymn tune; and in Bach’s case, typically such pieces closely reflect the meaning of the text. Today most scholars agree that Bach’s sacred music reflects not just his musical genius, but his profound understanding of Christian theology and his strong personal faith. The opening voluntary transforms the original tune into an ornate and rhapsodic melody, much the same way a jazz musician takes a tune as a starting point for a freely improvised expression of its emotional content. Bach creates an atmosphere of somber, veiled mystery punctuated by sudden shifts of harmony and expressive cascades of melody, conveying the hidden drama of the text line-by-line.
complete contrast, the concluding voluntary is a lively, energetic toccata, beneath which the
tune is stated in long, ponderous bass notes, declaring the final and complete triumph of
Christ at his coming.

SUNDAY’S MUSIC

10am Hymns:
59 “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”
54 “Savior of the nations, come!”
53 “Once he came in blessing”
56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Offertory Anthem: Canite tuba in Sion ("Sound the trumpet in Zion") - Francisco Guerrero
Organ Voluntaries: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 [Hymn 54] - J. S. Bach, and Nun
komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 [Hymn 54] - J. S. Bach

IMPORTANT DATES

Save these Dates: Don’t miss these upcoming Special Musical Events at Immanuel on the
Green!

Advent Lessons and Carols, one of Immanuel's cherished seasonal traditions, takes place
next Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 o'clock. Immanuel’s choirs offer this experience of
spiritual reflection through music, scripture, and prayer, in the conviction that an Advent well
observed prepares us to experience the full meaning of Christmas. Plan now to join us
December 8 for Advent Lessons and Carols, and invite a friend to share the experience with
you.

Advent Lessons and Carols will be followed by the Annual Holiday Covered Dish Dinner
and Christmas Pageant. St. Anne's Guild will provide both turkey and ham; the rest of our
festive feast is pot luck, bring your favourite seasonal side to share!

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve - 4:30pm: Christmas Music; 5pm: Family Eucharist
with the Ross Choir; 10:30pm: Christmas Music; 11pm Choral Eucharist with incense, The
Immanuel Choir, George Malcolm: Missa ad Preasepio, Cecilia McDowall: Gaude et laetare.

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day - 10am: Choral Eucharist with incense,
Plainsong: Missa Marialis.

Sunday, January 5, The Epiphany - Visitation by the Rt. Rev’d Kevin Brown, Bishop of
Delaware, Sung Eucharist and Baptism.

February 8 - 9: Visiting Scholar Weekend with Dr. Esther Lightcap Meek - “The Epiphany
of Beauty: Where Art and Faith Converge” is a unique weekend-long event featuring Visiting
Scholar Esther Meek, Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College, exploring the connections
between music, theology, and liturgy. Not to be missed!

PARISH HAPPENINGS
Goody Care Packages For Deployers

The outreach project to support the 200+ Delaware National Guard members deployed continues at Immanuel. A number of Immanuilians have donated care and hygiene packages for our Delaware neighbors, who are deployed to Southeast Asia in support of ongoing military operations.

These deployed soldiers are grateful and appreciative of the support they get from us. Our initiative “Treats for Troops” provides both “goodies” that remind them of home, such as Tasty Cake and Wawa products. We are also providing personal hygiene items that are hard to come by in the area that they are deployed. We are gathering up the first package and sending it to them with our prayers and blessings. Donations will be accepted through January 2020.

A complete list of the items may be found here and on the church porch. Donations may be dropped off there or at the Parish Office. For any questions, feel free to reach out to Bob Irwin at rjirwin09@verizon.net or at 302-354-4636. Let’s all continue to support our deployed troops.

Food Bank News

After a month or so of not really needing anything for the Food Closet, the stock levels have diminished for a few items. If you are out shopping and would be inclined, please pick up the items listed below. Contributions can be left at the Academy at Coffee Hour, or at the office during the week - we are no longer collecting food on the church porch.

Remember, these are NEEDS and it would be appreciated that you only purchase items from this list. Also be mindful of the item sizes, bigger is not always better.
- Pasta and Sauce - no elbows please
- Rice A Roni
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Entrees - Chili or Stew
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Crackers - Ritz or Saltines
- Instant Potatoes
- Unsweetened dry cereal - cheerios, corn flakes, etc
- Instant oatmeal packets

As always, your donations keep this Mission viable. Thanks for your Support.

Gary Burgmuller
NCUMC Food Closet Coordinator
Join Us For A December Fellowship Movie Event On the Big Screen!
The Holiday Classic, Meet Me In St. Louis
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM
At The Christiana Mall Cinemark

Fathom Events, TCM and Warner Bros. pictures presents Meet Me in St. Louis returning to select theaters for a special 75th anniversary event.

Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien star in this heartwarming tale of the emotional trauma the colorful members of an early 20th century St. Louis family experience when they learn their father has been transferred--and they will have to move to New York. This anniversary event includes exclusive insights from Turner Classic Movies. The classic holiday song, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas sung by Judy Garland is a holiday memory not to be missed!

Tickets to this rare big screen opportunity will sell fast.

There are 25 tickets available from Jon Barrett at $12.50 a piece. Reserve and buy yours today by contacting Jon at (302) 584-1068 or email at jbarr1097@comcast.net. First come, first served - please make any cheques out to Jon directly, or have exact change.

Available Flower Memorial Dates

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one time happenings. Please contact the office or Mark if you would like to talk about an offering.

The following Sundays do not have dedicated flower offerings:

2019
- December 29

2020
- January 12
- February 9
- March 1
- March 29
- April 19
- May 3
- May 31
SERVICES AT IMMANUEL

Schedule of Services
Immanuel’s sense of community is firmly grounded in our weekly gathering for corporate worship. You are an essential member of that Community! Do plan to join us every week for one (or more) of these services:

Sunday
- 8am - Said Mass
- 10am - Sung Mass
- 7pm - Compline

Wednesday
- 9:30am - Said Mass (postponed until further notice)

Thursday
- 6pm - Said Mass

Compline continues every Sunday at 7 p.m.

Compline continues every Sunday night at 7 p.m. This brief service of prayer and readings is the final service in the monastic daily prayer cycle. It is less than 10 minutes long, and includes time for private prayer in your pew before and after the service. If you have not yet joined us for Compline, please consider making this a part of your spiritual discipline.

A new signup has been posted with dates available through the spring. If you would like to lead Compline and/or set up the church by lighting 60+ candles, please use this link to do so. Questions? Ask Jo Harney at jo.w.harney@gmail.com.

Sign up here
Large print bulletins are available.

**December birthdays**
- Week 1 - John Monaghan, Kay Bartlett, Allison Tobey
- Week 2 - Camille Foster
- Week 3 - Liz Plant, Thomas Tear, Jo Harney, Judy Upshure
- Week 4 - Diane Meyers, Thomas Plant
- Week 5 - Matt Kinservik

**November Anniversaries**
- Week 4 - Jago and Liz Plant

**STAY CONNECTED**

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram, for memes like this one:
SO IT BEGINS

ADVENT SEASON IS HERE

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent.

Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.

Facebook Instagram Twitter

Immanuel on the Green | 100 Harmony Street, New Castle, DE 19720