

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



December 22 2019, 11:00 AM,
Historic Sanctuary

St. Helena's Episcopal Church and School
410 N. Main Street
Boerne, TX. 78006
www.sthelenas.net

Welcome to St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. If you are a visitor with us, we warmly welcome you to this worship service and to the vibrant life of St. Helena's community. We invite you to fill out a Guest Card found in the pew bookrack and drop it in the offering plate when it comes by. We want you to know that all baptized Christians – regardless of your denomination, tradition, age, or background – are invited and welcome to receive Holy Communion during worship. Also, pick up a blue bag as you leave today. It contains our latest newsletter and other information about St. Helena's.

CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are always welcome in our worship services. Children's sermons are part of our worship during 9:00am and 11:00am worship services. Should you desire it, child care for children ages infants through 4 years is available during all worship services and most parish activities. The parish nurseries are located downstairs in the Parish Hall Wing. (Signs are posted)

QUESTIONS?

For more information regarding St. Helena's Early Enrichment Program, Children & Youth Ministries, music, Bible Studies, senior ministries, baptisms, weddings, and more, please feel free to contact our clergy or staff members. More information may be found on our website at www.sthelenas.net.

The restrooms are located in the Parish Hall Wing, one floor below the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

7:45 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:10 A.M. Sunday School for all ages:
Adults
Preschool – 2nd - Room C Wendler Hall
3rd - 5th Room 2 – Parish Hall Wing
Middle and High School – Youth House

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Service of Public
Healing
and Holy Eucharist

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
for Christmas**

Officiant

The Rev. David G. Read

The St. Helena's Chancel Choir

Directed by
Whit Matteson

Organist

Mary Ann Winden

*A worship service in celebration of the birth of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

Prelude:

❖ *In dulci Jubilo*
❖ *In dulci Jubilo*
❖ *In dulci Jubilo*

Peeters
Dupré
J.S. Bach

The bell in the tower tolls.



Solo: 1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir: 2. He came down
to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

All: 3. We, like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display
heaven's Word, the world's creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.

All: 4. For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

All: 5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

All: 6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

Tune: Irby

Officiant

Let us pray.

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 make this Church, dedicated to his servant, St. Helena, 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 unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially for his Church in this country and in this city.

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 cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man 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:

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 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.

Lessons and Carols

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Paul Johnson

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

Choir Anthem: *The Truth From Above*

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in paradise,
There to remain from evil free
Except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

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

Carol: *Angels, from the realms of glory*

Hymnal 93

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

*Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

Refrain

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Refrain

Tune: Regent Square

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Carol: *It came upon the midnight clear*

Hymnal 89

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Tune: Carol



The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Carol: *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Hymnal 81

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Tune: Es ist ein Ros

Choir Anthem: *A Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays*

Jean Berger

A rose, touched by the sun's warm rays,
all its petals does unfold.
So you, when touched by God's great mercy,
let joy and gladness win your soul.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Alayna Fox

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir Anthem: *What Sweeter Music*

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7

Ainsley Purcell

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol: *O little town of Bethlehem*

Hymnal 79

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

Tune: St. Louis

Choir Anthem: *Bethlehem Down*

Peter Warlock

“When He is King we will give Him the Kings’ gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown.
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the star-light -
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.



Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Leslie Taylor

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol: *Angels we have heard on high*

Hymnal 96

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their brave delight.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Tune: Gloria

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Jim Rand

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Choir Anthem: *Whence Comes This Lovely Fragrance*

Crawford Thoburn

Whence comes this lovely fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?
Never has such a scent come blowing over the flow'ry fields in May.
Whence comes this lovely fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?

What is this light so radiant glowing here in the night before our eyes?
Ne'er has a star so brilliant shining ventured to climb our eastern skies!
What is this light so radiant glowing here in the night before our eyes?

Hasten to Bethlehem and find your infant redeemer born today.
Eagerly run with joy to greet him, worship your Savior born today.
Hasten to Bethlehem and find your infant redeemer born today.

The congregation shall stand for the ninth lesson.



Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

The Rev. Brian Fox

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Then all shall kneel.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Carol: *O come, all ye faithful*

Hymnal 83

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father;

Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

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

Tune: Adeste fideles

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

People ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!***

Postlude

❖ *In dulci Jubilo*

J.S. Bach

The Voices of the St. Helena's Episcopal Church Chancel Choir

Lynne Boyers
AJ Boutte
Ann Kiecke
Jyron Joseph

Judy McGrew
Victoria McMillion
Joseph Rodriguez
Richard Watts

Readers

Kathryn Chisholm
Alayna Fox
The Rev. Brian Fox
Paul Johnson
Luke Hardin

Ainsley Purcell
Jim Rand
Reneé Snyder
Leslie Taylor

Acolytes

Kathryn Chisholm

Maggie Chisholm

Ushers

William Powers

Geoff Clarke

A Hymn for Christmas Day
John Byrom

In David's city, Shepherds, ye shall find
The Long foretold Redeemer of mankind;
Wrapped up in swaddling clothes, the Babe divine
Lies in a manger; this shall be your sign.
He spake, and straightway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.
The praises of redeeming love they sung,
And Heaven's whole orb with Hallelujahs rung.
God's highest glory was their anthem still;
Peace upon earth and mutual good will.
To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
To see the wonder God had wrought for man;
And found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid.
Amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,
The first apostles of His infant fame.
While Mary keeps, and ponders in her heart
The Heavenly vision, which the swains impart,
They to their flocks, still praising God, return,
And their glad hearts within their bosoms burn.
Let us, like these good shepherds then, employ
Our grateful voices to proclaim the joy:
Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind.



ST. HELENA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1765 | 410 N. Main St. | Boerne, Texas 78006
Phone: 830-249-3228 | www.sthelenas.net
The Rev. David G. Read, *Rector*