

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF WOODSTOCK**  
**SAINT LUKE'S**



**CHRIST CHURCH**

**Christmas Festival of  
Lessons & Carols  
Christ Church  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021 – 7:00 pm**



**Welcome!**

We are glad you are here! Please note: We are following Covid-19 protocols. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption for attendees 12 years and older is required and masks are mandatory. Thank you for your cooperation. May the peace of Christ fill you with joy!

**Dedication of a Hymn Book** given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sheila Clowes Bryant, by Marilyn Sherman.

**Processional Carol 81: Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Omit vs.3&4, Tune 628 Regent Square. You may sing wearing a mask.

***A Bidding for Christmas***

*Please be seated.*

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us reflect on the time of our rebellion against the creator of the universe, rejoice that

the glory of the Lord has been revealed, and raise our voices with the messenger who announces good news of great joy to all people.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them at the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and remember the departed, especially those on our Christmas Memorial List and other departed loved ones, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved - N -.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, let us give thanks for the year that has passed and pray for health and strength in the new year, that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

With joy in our hearts, let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ, and join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and wise men, and with all our forebears in faith in offering our worship.

*Silence*

We offer up this time of worship in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### ***The Readings***

*Please be seated for the readings & stand to sing if you are able.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 (*The fall of humankind.*) Ruth Hall**

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Carol 733: Once in Royal David's City** (Omit vs. 3-5)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9** (*The Peaceful Kingdom*) *John Wetmore*

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

God of hope, look upon those who live with despair as their companion. Give them signs of your healing presence and of your eternal purpose of salvation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

**Carol 82: O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Omit vs. 3)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson: Luke 1:26-38** (*The Birth Foretold.*) *Ruth Hall*

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Carol 734: Away in a Manger**

**4<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 2:1-7** (*The Birth of Jesus.*) *Rev. Shirley*

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Either Choir Anthem: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child, or Carol 77: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**5<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 2:8-16** (*Shepherds & Angels*) **Sandra Culberson**

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Carol 747: Shepherds in the Field Abiding** (Omit vs. 3)

**6<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-12** (*God has spoken by His Son*) **Ruth Hall**

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Carol 81: Angels From the Realms of Glory**

(Omit vs. 3 & 4 - Tune Regent Square 628)

**7<sup>th</sup> Lesson: John 1:1-14** (*The Word became flesh.*) **Rev. Shirley**

**Prayer:** Let us pray together:

Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving, we give you thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our will, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Offertory Carol 319: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

Omit vs. 3 & 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tune: Carol

Offering plate at the back on the Greeter's table.

### ***Prayer over the Gifts: (Together)***

God of light, in the birth of your son we see your glory.  
May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Litany for Peace in the Holy Land     *Led by Ruth Hall***

*Source: [www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/11/pray-for-the-peace-of-jerusalem](http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/11/pray-for-the-peace-of-jerusalem)*

Leader: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

**People: Grant us your peace.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the birth in Bethlehem of the Word made flesh, your Son, Jesus Christ; who dwelt among us full of grace and truth. For your love and your goodness.

**We give you thanks, O God**

Leader: We thank you for his life; his death in Jerusalem as he carried our sins and suffering, and for his glorious Resurrection in which he gave us new life with him. For your love and your goodness,

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We thank you for entrusting to us the ministry of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace-making for the healing of your creation. For your love and your goodness,

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: We pray for all victims of bloodshed, violence, and persecution. We especially pray for all in danger and those fleeing persecution in the Holy Land, and throughout the Middle East. Lord, hear our prayer,

**And let our cry come unto you.**

Leader: We pray for all who grieve for those they have loved and lost as a result of violence, particularly those grieving in Palestine and Israel. Lord, hear our prayer,

**And let our cry come unto you.**

Leader: We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all leaders, especially on those who lead the peoples in the Land of the Holy One, the United Nations and upon all in authority, so Your people may seek ways of peace and justice. Lord, hear our prayer,

**And let our cry come unto you.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, we praise and glorify you. You are our only refuge in a troubled world. Lord, hear our prayer,

**And let our cry come unto you.**

## **Silence**

### **Collect** (*Together*)

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (*Together*)

### **The Blessing**

### **Recessional Carol 361: Joy to the World**

(Tune: Antioch - Additional Tunes 27, p. 865)

**Dismissal:** Let us go forth in peace.

**People:** In the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!***