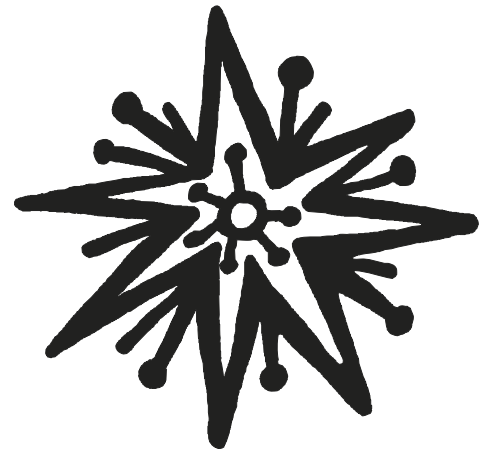


A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, 4 December 2011, 7:30 PM
Saint Paul's Church, Salem, New York



The service begins with the nave in darkness and lights on the high altar only. At the beginning of the service, the clergy are at the back of the church. The use of light and movement in the service is symbolic, representing the movement of fallen humanity from the darkness of sin and death toward redemption and life in the light of God's eternal Kingdom. At the heart of the service are readings from Scripture that describe how God planned from ancient times to send a Messiah to bring his people out of exile and misery.

ORGAN: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

At the conclusion of the organ voluntary, everyone stands.

MATIN RESPONSORY

Adapted from G.P. da Palestrina

Cantor: 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:

Choir: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Cantor: High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

Choir: Go ye out to meet him and say:

Cantor: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Choir: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Cantor: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

Choir: To reign over thy people Israel.

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: 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?

As the clergy move forward during the following motet, they share the flame of their candles with members of the congregation.

PROCESSIONAL MOTET: Come, thou Redeemer of the earth (St. Ambrose)

15th-century carol,

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, come testify thy Virgin-birth

arr. David Willcocks and others

All lands admire, all times applaud; such is the birth that fits a God.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee whose Advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The lights are turned on following the Lord's Prayer, and all extinguish their candles.

HYMN 60: Creator of the stars of night

9th-century plainsong

All sit for the lessons and motets, and stand for the hymns that follow.

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:1–22

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

MOTET: Remember, O thou man

Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man, Remember O thou man! Thy time is spent. Remember, O thou man, How thou came'st to me then, And I did what I can, Therefore repent. Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man! Remember Adam's fall From heaven to hell! Remember Adam's fall, How we were condemned all To hell perpetual, There for to dwell.	Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man! Remember God's goodness, And promise made! Remember God's goodness, How His only Son he sent Our sins for to redress, Be not afraid. Give thanks to God always, O thou man, O thou man! Give thanks to God always, With heart most jolly! Give thanks to God always, Upon this blessed day, Let all men sing and say: "Holy, holy!"
--	---

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 6:1–11

God commissions Isaiah to be the prophet of the Advent.

HYMN 64: O heavenly Word, eternal Light

17th-century German melody

THE THIRD LESSON: Baruch 4:36—5:9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look east because their salvation is at hand.

MOTET: People, look East

Traditional French carol

People, look East. The time is near Of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.	Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim. Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
--	---

THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 40:1–11

God comforts his people and tells them to prepare for their redemption.

HYMN 65: Prepare the way, O Zion

16th-century Swedish melody

THE FIFTH LESSON: Isaiah 45:5–8, 18–19, 22–23

The Lord calls upon all creation to bear witness to his saving power.

MOTET: Rorate coeli

Plainsong

Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

THE SIXTH LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31–34

God will write his covenant on the hearts of his people.

MOTET: Best of rooms (Robert Herrick)

Charles Wood

Christ, he requires still,	Give him the choice;
wheresoe'er he comes	grant him the nobler part
to feed or lodge	of all the house,
to have the best of rooms.	the best of all's the heart.

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

MOTET: The cherry tree carol

English traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks

Joseph was an old man, And an old man was he, When he married Mary In the land of Galilee.	Then bowed down the highest tree Unto our Lady's hand; "See," Mary cried, "see, Joseph, I have cherries at command."
And as they were walking Through an orchard so good, Where were cherries and berries As red as any blood.	"O eat your cherries, Mary, O eat your cherries, now; O eat your cherries, Mary, That grow upon the bough."
O then bespoke Mary, With words both meek and mild, "Pluck me one cherry, Joseph; For that I am with child."	Then Mary plucked a cherry, As red as any blood, Then Mary went she homewards All heavy with her load.
"Go to the tree then, Mary, And it shall bow to thee, And you shall gather cherries By one, by two, by three."	

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 3:1–12

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for sins.

HYMN 66: Come, thou long expected Jesus (Charles Wesley)18th-century hymn,
harm. William Henry Havergal

THE NINTH LESSON: Revelation 1:1–8; 22:20–21

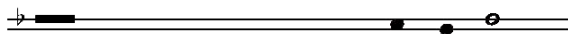
Saint John the Divine beholds a vision of the end.

MOTET: Patiently

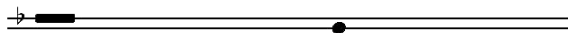
Camille Saint-Saëns

Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo! he heard my cry.

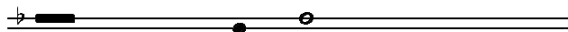
CLOSING PRAYERS



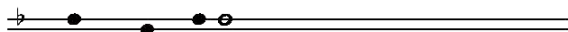
Officiant: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord.



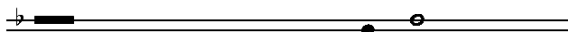
People: In the midst of Thy temple.



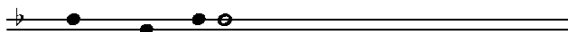
Officiant: The whole creation pleads:



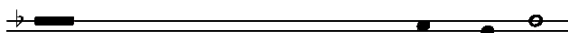
People: Come, Lord Jesus!



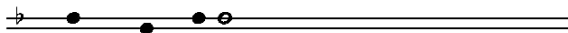
Officiant: The Spirit and the Church cry out:



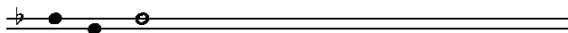
People: Come, Lord Jesus!



Officiant: All those who await his appearance cry out:



People: Come, Lord Jesus!



Officiant: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Officiant: 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. **People: Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN 73: The King shall come

William Jones

ORGAN: Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

Everyone is invited to remain for the organ voluntary in quiet contemplation.

Participating churches

East Hebron United Presbyterian Church ❖ First United Presbyterian Church, Salem
Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, Salem ❖ Salem United Methodist Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem ❖ West Hebron United Methodist Church
West Hebron United Presbyterian Church

Readers and singers

The music for the service is under the direction of Mr. William Briggs, organist, and Mr. Jared Stamm of St. Paul's Church, with an ecumenical choir. Readers and singers represent the churches of Salem and Hebron.

Please join us after the service for a reception in the old rectory!
(The rectory is the white house behind St. Paul's.)