

Advent Lessons and Carols 2020



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

St. Louis, Missouri

THIS SERVICE, composed by The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White for use at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, proclaims in word and song the promise of God to redeem the world through the Advent of His Son.

The metaphorical procession through the liturgy – from darkness into light – is intended to prepare the worshipper for the coming of the true Light, Jesus Christ.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Hymn



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, 9th-century

Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL: 15th-century, Mode I

The Bidding

BELOVED IN CHRIST, in this season of Advent, let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, the promise that God will visit and redeem the whole creation. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. And as we rejoice in all that God has done, let us stand strong in hope, confident that in Christ Jesus, all things will be brought to their eternal and glorious purpose.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of Jesus, 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.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

¶ Officiant and People

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.

¶ Officiant

May we have grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to live in the light of Christ, in whom is the light that enlightens all, and whose coming among us is our hope and confidence, now and unto the day of eternity. *¶ People* Amen.



Invitatory Carol

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all: but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: Anonymous, collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784
Music: Mark Schweizer (2013)



GOD ANNOUNCES IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN THAT THE SEED
OF WOMAN SHALL BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD

NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE SUBTILE 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

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

The first thing that I will relate,
That God at first did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell –
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Then after that '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 our posterity.

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

Words: English traditional; A Good Christmas Box, 1847

Music: Traditional English Carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



THE PROPHET PRAYS FOR AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE POWER OF GOD

OH THAT THOU Wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, as when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence. For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people. Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste. Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O Lord? wilt thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore?

Carol

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Saviour of us all,
We pray thee, hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Didst doom to death a universe,
Thou camest, Saviour, to set free
Thine own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night
Thou camest, not in splendour bright
As monarch, but as little child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At thy great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven shalt call thee Lord.

Come in thy holy might, we pray,
Redeem for us eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.
Amen.

Words: Latin, 9th-century

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM; Setting by Robert Lehman (2020)



THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS FORESHOWN

AND THERE SHALL COME FORTH A ROD out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
 From tender stem hath sprung.
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 As men of old have sung.
 It came, a flowret bright,
 Amid the cold of winter
 When half-spent was the night.

Words: Anonymous, 15th-century German

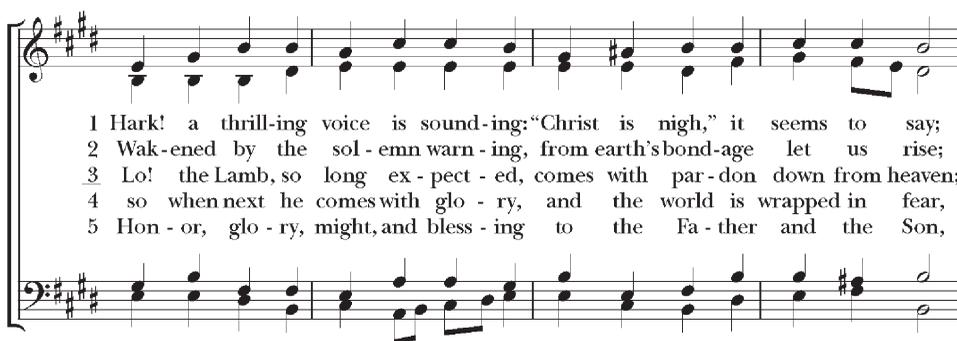
Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1599: arr. Jan Sandström (b. 1954)



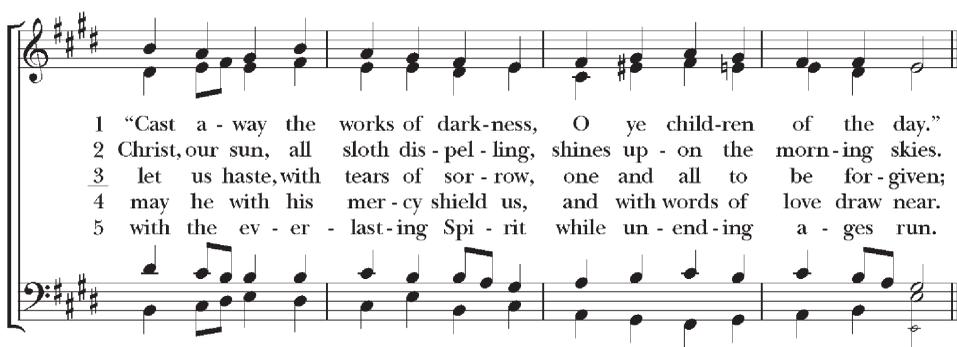
GOD'S MESSENGER PREPARES FOR THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

IN THOSE DAYS CAME JOHN THE BAPTIST, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

Hymn



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, 6th-century

Music: MERTON: William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

Angelus ad virginem
Subintrans in conclave.
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens inquit “Ave.”
Ave Regina Virginum,
Coeli Terreque Dominum
Concipies,
Et paries
Intacta
Salutem hominum,
Tu Porta Coeli facta
Medella Criminum.

Quomodo conciperem
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem
Quod firma mente vovi?
‘Spiritus Sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia,
Ne timeas,
Sed gaudeas,
Secura
Quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.’

Ad haec virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
‘Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi caelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens,
Et cupiens
Videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere
Dei consilio.’

*Gabriel to Mary came,
And entered at her dwelling,
With his salutation glad,
Her maiden fears dispelling,
All hail, thou Queen of virgins bright!
God, Lord of earth and heaven’s height,
Thy very Son
Shall soon be born
in pureness,
The Saviour of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,
The sinners’ healer kind.’*

*‘How could I a mother be
That am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve,
My solemn vows endanger?’
‘Pow’r from the Holy Ghost on high
Shall bring to pass this mystery.
Then have no fear:
Be of good cheer,
Believing
That still thy chastity
In God’s Almighty keeping
Shall all unsullied be.’*

*Then to him the maid replied,
With noble mien supernatural
‘Lo! the humble handmaid
Of God the Lord eternal
With thee, bright messenger of heaven,
By whom this wondrous news is given,
I well agree
And long to see
Fulfilled
Thy gracious prophecy.
As God my Lord doth will it,
So be it unto me!’*

Eia mater Domini,
Quae pacem redidisti
Angelis et homini,
Cum Christum genuisti,
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat,
Et deleat
Peccata,
Praestans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exilium.

*Hail! thou Mother of the Lord,
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,
Peace to angels and to men
When Christ the Lord thou barest!
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
For us our long'd redemption
Himself to win
And from our sin
Release us;
His succor for to give
That, when we hence are taken
We too in heav'n may live*

Words: Attr. Philip the Chancellor (d. 1236)

Music: Anonymous, 13th Century; arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)



THE VIRGIN MARY SALUTES HER KINSWOMAN ELISABETH

AND MARY AROSE IN THOSE DAYS, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Carol

There is no rose of such vertue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Resmiranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three,
Pares forma.

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth,
Transeamus.

Words: Anonymous, 14th-century English
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)



SAINT MATTHEW TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name Jesus.

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,
 Guilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre 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)



Closing Prayer

O GOD, WHO MAKEST US GLAD with the yearly expectation of thy coming; grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *¶ People Amen.*

The Blessing

O PEN WIDE, O LORD, the gates of heaven and visit thy people in peace; send forth thy Spirit from on high that their hearts may be uplifted unto thee; O Lord, who for our sake wast of a virgin born, make holy thy people and bless thine heritage;

AND THE BLESSING *✠* OF GOD ALMIGHTY,
THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST,
BE AMONGST YOU AND ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER. *¶ People Amen.*

Hymn



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - 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 (1707-1788)

Music: HELMSLEY: Augustine Arne (1719-1778)

Participants in the Service

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Andrew John Archie
Rector

READERS

The Rt. Rev. Gregory Mohrman <i>Abbot, Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis</i>	FIRST LESSON
Cantor Seth Warner <i>Congregation Shaare Emeth</i>	SECOND LESSON
Dr. Robert Wylie Lehman <i>Organist and Choirmaster</i>	THIRD LESSON
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem <i>Priest Associate</i>	FOURTH LESSON
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey <i>Priest Associate</i>	FIFTH LESSON
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson <i>Assistant Rector</i>	SIXTH LESSON
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos <i>Assistant Rector</i>	SEVENTH LESSON

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Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler	ASSOCIATE ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
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