

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

100 South Main Street | P. O. Box 5068

Southampton, New York 11969-5068

St. John's Episcopal Church & St. Andrew's Dune Church

*Christmas Season Schedule*



Christmas Eve

*St John's Episcopal Church*

**11:00 AM Lessons and Carols**

*St Andrew's Dune Church*

**3:00 PM Children's Service and Pageant**

*St John's Episcopal Church*

**7:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Rite II with Christmas Carols**

Christmas Day

**10:00AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I**

First Sunday after Christmas

**8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I**

**9:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II**

**11:00 AM Morning Prayer - Rite I**



Services are available online through  
**Facebook Live: [Facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton)**

Sunday Services

- 8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11:00 A.M. - Morning Prayer, Rite I
- Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- (1st Sunday of each month)

Weekday Services

**Monday – Friday**

- 7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
- 6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I
- Wednesday**
- 10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 December 24, 2023 • 11:00 AM  
 Advent Lessons and Carols

Choral Introit *Veni Emmanuel* The St. John's Choir

Processional *Once in Royal David's city*  
 Haley W. Ludlow, solo first verse; Congregation to join remaining verses

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



Images from King's College Chapel, Cambridge University in England where the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols are performed each Christmas Eve and broad cast around the world by the BBC.

*Verse of the Week*

“Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’”

Luke 1:37

*Quote of the Week*



“We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.”

Pope Benedict XVI  
 Theologian, bishop, and Pope • d. 1 January 2023



*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

## Postlude

+++

***A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS*** was first reported by the Royal Cornwall Gazette as occurring at Truro Cathedral on Christmas Eve, 1878. The Bishop of Truro, Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, formalized the service with Nine Lessons for use at Christmas Eve, 1880. It was a hit with over 400 people attended the service that year. There is a popular, if apocryphal, legend that Bishop Benson created the service in order to lure wayward souls out of the public houses and into the Cathedral on Christmas Eve. If this is so, then the Bishop enjoyed some considerable success. By 2013 there were 1,500 in attendance for the service. (Attendance at the pubs during these services are not recorded.)

The service is enjoyed throughout the Anglican Communion, as well as by other denominations, but is particularly popular in schools and colleges where it is often the primary Christmas observance each year. The Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts, is the oldest and longest continually held Lessons and Carols service in the United States, having been conducted there since 1928.



The most widely known Lessons and Carols is the annual BBC broadcast from King's College Chapel at Cambridge University in England, with millions of listeners held each Christmas Eve. The King's College service has been broadcast since 1928, even in the depths of the Blitz, despite fears of attack, with the stained-glass windows removed and the heat turned off due to war rationing.

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

## The Bidding Prayer

### Offertory

*The Star Carol* (Alfred Burt) The St. John's Choir

### First Lesson

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hymn 82

*Of the Father's love begotten*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

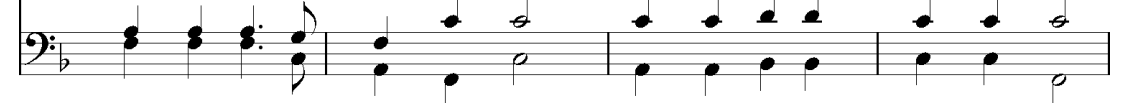
Concluding Prayer and Blessing

Hymn 87

*Hark! the herald angels sing*



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Hymn 66

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

**Third Lesson**

*Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7*

The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
 on them light has shined.  
 You have multiplied the nation,  
 you have increased its joy;  
 they rejoice before you  
 as with joy at the harvest,  
 as people exult when dividing plunder.  
 For the yoke of their burden,  
 and the bar across their shoulders,  
 the rod of their oppressor,  
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.  
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.  
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

**Ninth Lesson**

*St. John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn 124

*What star is this, with beams so bright*

*Unison or harmony*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them  
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful  
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onwards and for evermore.  
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn 111

*Silent night, holy night*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Fourth Lesson**

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
 the spirit of counsel and might,  
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
 or decide by what his ears hear;  
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

**Seventh Lesson**

*St. Luke 2:15-20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***The First Noel* (Willan, Stainer)**

**The St. John's Choir**

**Eighth Lesson**

*St Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently



## Hymn 79

*O little town of Bethlehem*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
 as the waters cover the sea.

*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* (Michael Praetorius) The St. John's Choir

## Fifth Lesson

*St. Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn 83 *O come, all ye faithful*

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e-ter-nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,  
 \*4 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,  
 \*5 Child, for us sin-ners poor and in the man-ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;  
 2 lo! he ab-hors not the Vir-gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove;  
 4 leav-ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em-brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;  
 2 on-ly-be-got-ten Son of the Fa-ther;  
 3 glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est;  
 4 we too will thith-er bend our joy-ful foot-steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov-ing us so dear-ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-

dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.

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*

Sixth Lesson

*St. Luke 2:1-14*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.