Sacred Music at the Red Door presents

Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols

The St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

Please connect with the sacred by turning off your electronic device as soon as you are seated. You are cordially invited to a reception following the service in the church hall.

VOLUNTARIES FOR ORGAN

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich This day is so full of joy Noel Suisse Pieds en l'air from Capriol Suite Carol Prelude on "Greensleeves" In dulci jubilo In quiet joy Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703) Peter Warlock (1894-1930) M. Searle Wright (1918-2004) Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN IN PROCESSION 102 All stand and sing

Once in royal David's city
Stanzas 1 - 2 sung by the choir
Stanzas 3 - 6 sung by all

IRBY

Descant: Paul Halley (b. 1952)

GREETING

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton, Rector

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and 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 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 the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within 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 hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one 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.**

INVITATORY CAROL Be seated

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

John Gardner (1917-2011)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance:

Sing O my love; This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor this was my chance, Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance, My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance:

FIRST LESSON

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3: 8-15; 17-19

nd 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. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961) Words: Anonymous, 15th Century

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond: Four thousand winters thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, As clerkes finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, Ne had never our lady abeen heavenè queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen: *Deo gracias!*

SECOND LESSON

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22: 15-18

nd the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

I wonder as I wander

Appalachian Carol, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945) Margaret Beers, soloist

I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus the savior did come for to die For poor on'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing A star in the sky or a bird on the wing Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus the savior did come for to die For poor on'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky

THIRD LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7

he people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

People, look East

Christopher Steel (1938-1991) Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

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 the sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth, Him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

FOURTH LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. Micah 5: 2-4

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O little one sweet

German Melody, harmonized Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Words translated Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild, With joy thou hast the whole world filled; Thou camest here from heav'n's domain, To bring men comfort in their pain, O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild, In thee Love's beauties are all distilled; Then light in us thy love's bright flame, That we may give thee back the same. O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Help us to do as thou hast willed. Lo, all we have belongs to thee! Ah, keep us in our fealty! O little one sweet, O little one mild. O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

Descant: Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

FIFTH LESSON Be seated

read by Mariana Evica, Adult Choir member

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

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 Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Ave Maria

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Blessed art thou among women,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
pray for us sinners,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2: 1; 3-7

nd it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 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 Judæa, 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.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Christmas lullaby

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Words: Charles Anthony Silvestry (b. 1965)

Lullaby, Lullaby,
Rest now my sweeting,
Oh my Child, open your eyes!
Lullaby, Lullaby,
Angel voices softly singing
Carols for their newborn King.
Lullaby, Lullaby,
Whisper and sigh,
Lullaby, Lullaby, Lullaby,

Lullaby, Lullaby,
Silently waiting,
All creation greets the Child;
Lullaby, Lullaby,
Holy Child, fulfill our longing,
Our foretold salvation bring.
Lullaby, Lullaby,
Whisper and sigh,
Lullaby, Lullaby, Lullaby,

SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2: 8-16

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. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The shepherds' farewell from L'enfance du Christ, Op. 25

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling, The humble crib, the stable bare. Babe, all mortal babes excelling, Content our earthly lot to share. Loving father, Loving mother, Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee With humble love and holy fear. In the land that lies before Thee, Forget not us who linger here! May the shepherd's lowly calling, Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, Thou happy father, mother mild! Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child! God go with you, God protect you, Guide you safely through the wild! Hector Berlioz (1803-1869) Words: Paul England

EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2: 1–12

ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The first nowell

The First Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country far; To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) Words: Traditional English St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. 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: who 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.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL Be seated

No small wonder

Paul Edwards (b. 1955) Text: Paul Wigmore (b. 1925)

Small wonder the star, Small wonder the light, The angels in chorus, The shepherds in fright; But stable and manger for God – No small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, Small wonder they bore The gold and the incense, The myrrh, to adore: But God gives his life on a cross – No small wonder!

Small wonder the love,
Small wonder the grace,
The power, the glory,
The light of his face;
But all to redeem my poor heart No small wonder!

COLLECT AND BLESSING All stand

Officiant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. 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.**

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.**

CLOSING HYMN IN PROCESSION 83

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sinfonia from Cantata 29: Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir We thank you, God, we thank you

Johann Sebastian Bach

The closing voluntary is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for God's Word as it has been experienced this day. All are invited to say Amen at the end of the Postlude as a conclusion to our worship.

The St. John's Choir

Scott Lamlein, Director of Music - Floyd Higgins, Guest Organist

Youth: Christine Babbitt, Margaret Babbitt, Teddy Babbitt, Morgan Babbitt, Claire Brouillard, Naomi Cipriano, Elsa Ciscel, Britt Emerick, Cate Emerick, Emma Evica, Katherine Foust, Julia Foust, Emily Foust, Madeline Green (head chorister), Francis Lamlein, Daaé Ransom (lead girl), Michael Santamaria, Shannon Scott, Sierra Scott, Olivia Tummescheit, Philip Tummescheit, Alyssa Vieau

Soprano: Margaret Beers, Zella Foster, Caitlyn Semanie

Alto: Michael Doran, Mariana Evica, Mary Beth Lamlein, Jacqueline Smith

Tenor: Lynn Brooks, John Church, Jeffrey Martin, Paul Smith, Malachi Ward

Bass: Stephan Christiansen, Nicholas Filippides, Ishaar Gupta, Hal Rives

Christmas at St. John's Church

Sunday, December 20: Christmas Pageant - 10:30 a.m.

The young people of the parish will tell the Christmas story in reading, pageant, and song. Angels and shepherds, friendly beasts and kings will gather, a star will shine – and there will be camels wearing sneakers. Come and sing the familiar carols and hear the old old story of God's love for this world.

Sunday, December 20: Late Church & Early Supper – 5:30 p.m.

A meditative service of Holy Eucharist, with scripture, message, piano music, and candle lighting.

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist – 4 p.m. with musical prelude at 3:45

This festal celebration will include a sermon suitable for younger children and music by our Youth Choir.

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist – 11 p.m. with choral prelude at 10:30

The music of the Christmas angels will be played and sung by our Adult Choir and string quartet and the people of God who gather in this place.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist - 10 a.m.

This quiet and reverent worship will include a sermon and carols.

acknowledges with gratitude the following donors for the 2015-2016 season:

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