

*Season's Blessings*  
*Advent and Christmas at St. John's Cathedral*

**Sunday, December 4**  
St. Nicholas Family Service | 9 a.m.

**Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve**  
Family Service | 2 p.m.  
Services with Cathedral Choir | 4, 6 & 11 p.m. (incense will be used at 11 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day**  
Cummings Chapel | 10 a.m.

**Saturday, December 31 New Year's Eve**  
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols | 5 p.m.  
A candlelight service of Christmas scripture and traditional carols sung by the Cathedral Choir.

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about upcoming events: @jaxcathedral*

*Advent Procession of  
Lessons and Carols*



*November 27, 2022*  
*Five O'Clock in the Evening*  
*St. John's Cathedral*  
*The Episcopal Diocese of Florida*  
*Jacksonville, Florida*

**Welcome to St. John's Cathedral!**

The Advent service in the old English liturgies provided vivid preparation for the coming of our Lord to earth. Much of this carol service is drawn from these sources. Throughout the service, the choir moves in procession from the West to East, from darkness into light. As the procession moves toward the East End, prophetic readings alternate with carols. Finally, in the Sanctuary, the Gospel replaces the Prophets.

It is our privilege and joy to offer quality choral services like this one. Please help us continue this great tradition through your generous offering. An offering will be collected during the singing of the carols after the reading of the Third Lesson. During this service, we ask that all cell phones and audible pagers be turned off, and that no flash photography is used. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher.

**ADVENT PRELUDES**

- Prelude on the Chorale, "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles" Johann Sebastian Bach
- Prelude on the Chorale, "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles" Dietrich Buxtehude
- Prelude on the Chorale, "Behold a Rose Bursts into Bloom" Johannes Brahms

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Matin Responsory for Advent** *from the West End* G. P. da Palestrina

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 reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Paul Fisher & Martha Gerding, cantors*

**Hymn 57** "Lo! He comes, with clouds descending" *Helmsley*

*The People are seated.*

**First Lesson** God commissions Isaiah to be the Prophet of the Advent. *Isaiah 6:1-8*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

**Carol** *in the Crossing* "Twas In The Year" G. R. Woodward

"Twas in the year that King Uzziah died, a vision by Isaiah was aspiend:  
A lofty throne, the Lord was set thereon; and with his glory all the temple shone.  
Bright Seraphim were standing round about. Six wings had every of that quire devout.  
With twain he awesome veil'd his face, and so with twain he dreadful veil'd his feet below.  
With twain did he now hither, thither fly: and thus aloud did one to other cry:  
'Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth, full of his glory are earth and heaven both.'  
of incense filled the Holy Place.

*The People stand and sing.*

**Hymn 59** "Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding" *Merton*

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. *Amen.*

**The Blessing**

Open 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 was 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. *Amen.*

*The People stand and sing.*

**Hymn 72** "Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes!" *Richmond*

**At the Procession** Prelude on the Advent Chorale *Paul Manz*  
"Comfort, comfort Ye My People"

**Concluding Voluntary** Prelude on the Advent Chorale *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
"Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles"

*As at all Services of Music, the People are encouraged to remain in their pews to listen to the closing organ Voluntary.*

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**Carol** Say to Them That Are of a Fearful Heart Everett Titcomb

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not.  
Behold your God will come and save you.

**Carol** Alma Redemptoris G. P. da Palestrina

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli  
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,  
Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti  
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem  
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore  
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum Miserere.*

Kindly Mother of the Redeemer, who art ever of heaven  
The open gate, and the star of the sea, aid a fallen people,  
Which is trying to rise again; thou who didst give birth,  
While Nature marveled how, to thy Holy Creator,  
Virgin both before and after, from Gabriel's mouth  
Accepting the All hail, be merciful towards sinners.

*The People stand.*

#### Vesper Responsory

*Priest* Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
*People* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
*Priest* Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
*People* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
*Priest* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
*People* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

**Hymn 462** "The Lord will come and not be slow" *St. Stephen*

*The People kneel.*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Verse: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

Response: In the midst of thy temple.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon 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 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, now and forever. *Amen.*

*The People are seated.*

**Second Lesson** The Prophet proclaims the good news to a people in exile. Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

**Carol** Blow out the trumpet in Sion Martin Peerson

Blow out the trumpet in Sion and sound an alarm in thy holy mountain. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand. -Joel 2:1

**Third Lesson** The Prophet foretells the coming of the Lord. Zechariah 2:10-13

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

*The Offering is collected.*

**Carol** Drop down, ye heavens John Stainer

Drop down, ye heav'ns, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:  
let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring forth together.

Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women.

Behold, thou shalt conceive and bring forth a Son, and shall call His Name Jesus.

He shall be great, and shall be call'd The Son of the Highest; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.

Thou art fairer than the children of men, full of grace are thy lips, because God hath blessed thee forever. Amen.  
-Isaiah 15:8; Luke I: 28, 31-33; Psalm 14:2

*Rebecca Andrews, soprano*

*The People stand and sing.*

**Hymn 76** "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry" *Winchester New*

*The People are seated.*

**Fourth Lesson**

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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, favored 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 favor 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.

**Carol** *sung antiphonally*

The Angel Gabriel

Basque Carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleases God!" she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother you shall be,  
All generations praise continually,  
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

**Fifth Lesson**

The Blessed Virgin Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

**Carol***sung antiphonally*

The Hunter

Johannes Brahms

A Hunter went a-hunting, He came from heaven's height,  
And in the way one met Him, 'twas Mary, the Virgin bright.

The Hunter from the heavens, right well we know His fame,  
An angel hunts beside Him, and Gabriel is his name.

Upon his horn he soundeth; the sound fills all the place:

"All hail to thee, O Mary, thou Virgin full of grace!

All hail to thee, O Mary, thou Virgin pure and fair!

Within thy spotless body, a Babe thou soon shalt bear,

Shalt bear within thy body a Babe of tender mould,

Who in His mystic being shall earth and heav'n enfold."

Then Mary, meek and lowly, knelt down upon her knee:

"As God my Lord ordaineth, so be it unto me!"

*The choir moves into the Sanctuary as the melody of "Wachet auf!" sounds from the organ in the version by J.S. Bach.*

**Carol***sung by the choir in the Sanctuary*

Wachet Auf!

Phillip Nicolai

"UP! awake!" from highest steeple, the watchmen cry, "Awake, ye people; O Salem, from thy slumber rise! Hear those clarion voices knelling, the hour of midnight loud forthtelling; Say, where are ye, O virgins wise? The Bridegroom comes awake! Up! Lamp and lantern take; Alleluia! With ready light ye must tonight go forth to join the marriage rite."

**Sixth Lesson**

St. Matthew tells of the coming birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means 'God is with us.'

**Carol**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Marty Wheeler Burnett

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

-Charles Wesley