

The Choir of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church presents



Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Matthew Cook
Conductor and Organ

Phillip Matsuura
Piano



**ST. MICHAEL
& ALL ANGELS**

Corona Del Mar, California

The St. Michael and All Angels Choir

Soprano

Lexi Eckland*
Michele Dulson
Atalia Später
Susan Zevnik

Tenor

Vincent Loza*
Eric Blair
Matthew Thomas
Richard Zevnik

Alto

Christina Alexopoulos*
Meadow Jones
Nina Jo Smith
Pat Walbers
Melinda Yang

Bass

Tylar Coleman*
Noah Benjamin
Ryan Fass
West Seegmiller
Sean Stanton

* section leader

Generously Supported by the St. Michael's Friends of Music

Garrison Keillor, who is an Episcopalian, once wrote a piece about our fondness for music, which began like this: "We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them." With his dry Midwestern humor, Keillor makes the point that music is a central element of Episcopal worship.

St. Michael & All Angels Friends of Music is an organization of parishioners who seek to improve upon our already wondrous music program and to explore the many varieties of music that can enhance liturgies and community concerts.

Over the years Friends of Music has invited a variety of musicians to perform various styles of music at St. Michael and All Angels: Early Music, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Gospel.

Learn more about Friends of Music on our website at stmikescdm.org/friends-of-music/ or scan this QR code.



Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” Matthew Cook, *Organ*
arr. Diane Bish (b. 1941)

Opening Invitation / Invocation

Rector Beloved in Christ, in this holy season of Advent, when the Church waits in expectant hope for the coming of her Lord, we gather in the growing darkness of the year to seek the Light which no darkness can overcome. Here we recall the ancient promises of God, spoken by prophets and poets, cherished by Israel, and fulfilled in the Word made flesh. We listen for that Word tonight— not as history only, but as mystery in which we ourselves take part. We come as those who keep watch at midnight, waiting for the Bridegroom’s cry; as those who long for the dawn from on high, and look for the Morning Star to arise in our hearts. In scripture and in song, in poetry and prophecy, we trace the loving purposes of God from age to age, until, in the fullness of time, they are made manifest in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, let us lay aside haste and distraction, and open the deep places of our hearts. Let us prepare within ourselves a mansion for the Coming King. May our silence become listening, our longing become prayer, and our prayer become praise, as we wait in faith for Him who comes to make all things new.

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
from *Wachet auf, ruf uns die Stimme*, BWV 140 (1731)
by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,
Der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,
Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!
Mitternacht heißt die Stunde,
Sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:
“Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?”
Wohl auf, der Bräutigam kommt,
Steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!
Alleluja!
Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,
Ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!*

*Wake up, the voice calls to us,
The watchman very high on the peak,
Wake up, you city Jerusalem!
Midnight is the hour,
They call us with clear mouths:
“Where are you wise virgins?”
Good cheer, the bridegroom comes,
Stand up, take up the lamps!
Alleluja!
Make yourself ready for the wedding,
You must go to meet him!*

Romans 13:8-14

Reader The first lesson is taken from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader Here ends the reading.

The Annunciation

by Fr. Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

Reader The second lesson is taken from *The Annunciation* by Fr. Malcom Guite.

We see so little, stayed on surfaces,
We calculate the outsides of all things,
Preoccupied with our own purposes
We miss the shimmer of the angels' wings,
They coruscate around us in their joy
A swirl of wheels and eyes and wings unfurled,
They guard the good we purpose to destroy,
A hidden blaze of glory in God's world.
But on this day a young girl stopped to see
With open eyes and heart. She heard the voice;
The promise of His glory yet to be,
As time stood still for her to make a choice;
Gabriel knelt and not a feather stirred,
The Word himself was waiting on her word.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Please stand as able.

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Daniel Purcell (1667-1717), from *Evening Service in G Minor*, Z. 231

Christina Alexopoulos, *mezzo-soprano*; Vincent Loza, *tenor*; Tylar Coleman, *bass*
Lexi Eckland, *soprano*; Meadow Jones, *mezzo-soprano*; Matthew Thomas, *tenor*

✦ *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden:

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

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 seat: And hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

Theotokos

by Fr Malcolm Guite

Reader The third lesson is taken from *Theotokos* by Fr. Malcom Guite.

You bore for me the One who came to bless
And bear for all and make the broken whole.
You heard His call and in your open 'yes'
You spoke aloud for every living soul.
Oh gracious Lady, child of your own child,
Whose mother-love still calls the child in me,
Call me again, for I am lost, and wild
Waves surround me now. On this dark sea
Shine as a star and call me to the shore.
Open the door that all my sins would close
And hold me in your garden. Let me share
The prayer that folds the petals of the Rose.
Enfold me too in Love's last mystery
And bring me to the One you bore for me.

Reader Here ends the reading.

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Additional text by Charlotte Lee.
arr. Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Christina Alexopoulos, *mezzo-soprano*

*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.*

*Prepare a way, make straight the path,
Proclaim so all may know.
The valleys shall be lifted up,
And all the hills made low.
Awake, for the morn is breaking forth.
We wait for the coming light
To comfort sorrow, banish pain, and pierce the dying night.*

*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.*

St. Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335-c. 394)

Homilies On The Song Of Songs

Reader The fourth lesson is taken from *Homilies On The Song Of Songs* by St. Gregory of Nyssa.

The soul is kissed by the Word,
and from that kiss she draws in the breath of divine life.
She becomes one spirit with Him who is Spirit,
and so brings forth a living word within herself.

When the soul has been illumined by the Word,
she is able to receive His fragrance;
and in that fragrance she becomes beautiful,
not with her own beauty,
but with the radiance of the Beloved.

The Word comes to the soul not by compulsion,
but in freedom and in love.

He invites her to rise from earthly preoccupations,
to forget the narrow limits of the self,
and to stretch out toward the infinite.

And when the soul opens to Him,
He transforms the senses:
the ears are made able to hear His music,
the eyes to contemplate His light,
the mouth to speak His praise.

The soul who loves is drawn upward by desire;
she ascends by longing,
and in every ascent she discovers that
the One she seeks is always greater still.
For the desire of the soul for God
is itself the gift of God.

And so the soul says:
“I am wounded by love,”
because she is pierced by the beauty of the Bridegroom.
But this wound is healing,
this thirst is sweetness,
this burning is joy.

For He wounds in order to heal,
He thirsts in order to give drink,
He draws us into Himself
that we may find ourselves in Him.

Thus the soul is kissed by the Word;
thus she becomes wholly His;
thus the divine image is restored and perfected in her.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Gustav Holst (1874-1934), Op. 36a, No. 1 (1916)

Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) after Habakkuk 2:20 and Zechariah 2:13

Lexi Eckland, *soprano*; Sean Stanton, *baritone*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

Revelation 22:1-7

Reader The fifth lesson is taken from the Revelation of John.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

⁷See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

Reader Here ends the reading.

"I Wonder as I Wander"

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980), arr. Stephen DeCesare

Vincent Loza, *tenor*; Tylar Coleman, *bass*

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary 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 shepherd and all,
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then 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 for 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 ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

Incarnation

St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Reader The sixth lesson is taken from *Incarnation* by St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

“You lived, O mortal, in darkness and the shadow of death through ignorance of the truth. God came down to you in your prison of darkness, not to torture you but to liberate you from the power of darkness. The Lord of the Apostles revealed himself in such a manner that it could be no longer said of them that they saw ‘the invisible things of God, being understood by the things that are made’, for they saw him face to face who made all things both visible and invisible. But inasmuch as the disciples were carnal, whereas God is a spirit, and spirit and flesh have little in common, he used the medium of a body to temper his brightness to their eyes, so that through a living veil of flesh they might see the Word in the flesh, the Sun of justice in a cloud, the Light of the world in an earthen vessel, the Candle in a lantern.”

Reader Here ends the reading.

“There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob”

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), from *Christus*, Op. 97 (1847)

*There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel,
With might destroying princes and cities.
As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!*

“All Things New” (2021)

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Light after darkness, gain after loss – Frances Havergal (1836-1879) from Revelation 21:5-6

*Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.*

*Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb;*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
He is making all things new,
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear,
He is making all things new.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
He is making all things new,
Springs of living water shall wash away each
tear,
He is making all things new.*

Nativity

by John Donne (c. 1571-1631)

Reader The seventh lesson is taken from *Nativity* by John Donne.

Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,
There He hath made Himself to His intent
Weak enough, now into the world to come;
But O, for thee, for Him, hath the inn no room?
Yet lay Him in this stall, and from the Orient,
Stars and wise men will travel to prevent
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.
Seest thou, my soul, with thy faith's eyes, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,
That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.

Reader Here ends the reading.

XV: Choral (from *Hodie* (1954))

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Anonymous; Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911-2007)

*No sad thought his soul affright,
Sleep it is that maketh night;
Let no murmur nor rude wind
To his slumbers prove unkind:
But a quire of angels make
His dreams of heaven, and let him wake
To as many joys as can
In this world befall a man.*

*Promise fills the sky with light,
Stars and angels dance in flight;
Joy of heaven shall now unbind
Chains of evil from mankind,
Love and joy their power shall break,
And for a new born prince's sake;
Never since the world began
Such a light such dark did span.*

XVI: Epilogue (from *Hodie* (1954))

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

John 1: 1, 4, and 14; Matthew 1:23

John Milton (1608-1674) – *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity* (1623)

Lexi Eckland, *soprano*; Vincent Loza, *tenor*; Sean Stanton, *baritone*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. In him was life; and the life was the
light of men. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among
us, full of grace and truth. Emmanuel, God with us.*

*Ring out, ye crystal spheres,
Once bless our human ears,
If ye have power to touch our senses so;
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time,
And let the bass of heaven's deep organ blow;
And with your ninefold harmony
Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.
Such music (as 'tis said)
Before was never made,
But when of old the sons of the morning sung,
While the Creator great
His constellations set,
And the well-balanced world on hinges hung,
And cast the dark foundations deep,
And bid the weltering waves their oozy channel keep.
Yea, truth and justice then
Will down return to men,
Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,
Mercy will sit between,
Throned in celestial sheen,
With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering;
And heaven, as at some festival,
Will open wide the gates of her high palace hall.*

Please stand as able.

Collect

From the Gelasian Sacramentary

Rector The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Rector Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation; that when thy Son our Lord cometh, he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction

Rector May Christ, whose Advent breaks the silence of the world, stir up your hearts to watch and to hope. May His Light scatter the night, His peace guard your minds, and His coming find you awake and ready. And the blessing of God Almighty, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this night and evermore. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“People, Look East” Matthew Cook, *Organ*
Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

Merry
Christmas

from your friends at



**ST. MICHAEL
& ALL ANGELS**

3233 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar, CA, 92625
(949) 644-0463 www.stmikescdm.org church@stmikescdm.org
9:30 am Sunday Holy Eucharist