



Sunday, December 22, 2024
5:00 p.m.
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
St. Francis in the Fields
Harrods Creek

WELCOME *to* ST. FRANCIS *in the* FIELDS

Thank you for joining us this evening. If you are a visitor, please consider filling out a Connect Card, found in the pew racks, to let us know a little about you. Kindly place it in an offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service. To learn more about the mission and ministry of St. Francis in the Fields, stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex, or visit our website at sfitf.org.

In order that all may find this a beautiful and meaningful experience, we ask that you please:

- *Ensure your phone is turned off, and that you refrain from photography, videography, or any other form of recording;*
- *Follow the instructions in the leaflet to stand or sit as you are able;*
- *Place your offering, which goes to support the work of St. Francis, in the offering plates as they are distributed;*
- *Wait quietly for the service to start.*

Cover Image: *Annunciatory Angel* (1450-55) by Fra Angelico (ca. 1400-1455).
Gold leaf and tempera on wood panel. From the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,” BWV 659
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
“Of the Father's love begotten”
Wilbur Held (1914–2014)

Daniel Grotz, *organ*

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City
IRBY

Setting: Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)

At the Procession, the choir sings stanzas 1 and 2. The congregation remains seated.

1

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The congregation is invited to stand and sing stanzas 3 through 6.

3

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

5

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

6

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

BIDDING PRAYER

Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas-tide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 in company with the whole Church let us make this church, dedicated to his lowly servant Francis, 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 love and unity within the one Church he did build; and for goodwill among all people, and especially within this parish and this city of Louisville.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that he hath made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Rector	Our Father
All	Who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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.

Rector	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.
--------	--

All sit.

The choir sings

INVITATORY CAROL

“Rorate Caeli”

Plainsong Mode I

Setting: Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

Words: *The Advent Prose*, ca. 1673

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum.

(Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.)

O Lord, your anger keep from us,
And remember no longer our sins and transgressions.
Lo, the city of the Lord has become a desert;
Zion is now a forsaken land,
Jerusalem now is desolate;
And the holy place of your sanctification,
The place of your glory,
Where our ancestors sang your praise in their own day.

Now be comforted, my people;
For most quickly comes your salvation.
Why then are you all consumed with grief,
So that your sorrowing has transformed you?
I come to save you, do not be afraid.
Do you not know that I am your Lord and God.
The most Holy One, Redeemer of Israel?

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-19

A member of the choir reads the lesson.

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

The choir sings

CAROL

“Adam Lay Ybounden”

Frank Boles (b. 1955)

Words: anon. English, 15th century

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkës finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady,
A-been heavenë queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

A student reads the lesson.

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The choir sings

CAROL

“E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come”

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

Words: adapted from Revelation 22

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

A member of the parish staff reads the lesson.

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

All stand and sing

HYMN

“O little town of Bethlehem”

Setting: Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)

FOREST GREEN

1

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

All sit.

3

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Director over the Choristers reads the lesson.

The Prophet Isaiah foreshows the peace that Christ will bring.

The choir sings

CAROL

“A Tender shoot”

Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)

Words: Otto Goldschmidt, English trans. William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse’s holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse’s root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

A Fellow reads the lesson.

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The choir sings

CAROL

“The angel Gabriel”
Philip Moore (b. 1943)

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.”
Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.”
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name”:
most highly favoured 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 favoured lady.”
Gloria!

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

A representative of the civil authority reads the lesson.

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

All stand and sing

HYMN

“The first Nowell”
THE FIRST NOWELL

1

The first Nowell 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.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2

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.

Refrain

3

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

4

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The Director of Music reads the lesson.

The shepherds go to the manger.

The choir sings

CAROL

“Infant holy”

Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

All sit.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Senior Warden of the Vestry reads the lesson.

The wise men follow the star to Jesus.

The choir sings

CAROL

“The Three Kings”

Peter Cornelius (1824–1874)

Words: Peter Cornelius and Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)

Matthew Houston, *baritone*

Solo

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary’s child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the infant King.

Chorale

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob’s stem and David’s line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o’erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o’erflowing

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

All stand.

The Rector reads the lesson.

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

All remain standing and sing

HYMN

“On this day earth shall ring”
PERSONENT HODIE

On this day earth shall ring
With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

*Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o,
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.

Refrain

God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led,
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adored him.

Refrain

On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

COLLECT & BLESSING

Rector The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Rector Let us pray.

O 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.

All **Amen.**

Rector May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All remain standing and sing

HYMN

“Lo! he comes with clouds descending”

HELMSLEY

Setting: Timothy Brown (b. 1946)

1

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2

Every eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshipers;
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly,
Alleluia! Come Lord, come!

*The choir and clergy process out of the church.
The congregation is invited to remain and listen to the closing voluntary.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Hayden Ives-Glasgow, *organ*

Music and Liturgy Permissions

All music is reprinted and streamed by permission under ONE LICENSE, License # A-741806 and Christian Copyright Solutions License 15982.

Music from *The Hymnal 1982* © Church Publishing, Inc., © Church Pension Fund unless noted otherwise below:

Once in royal David's city Words: C. F. Alexander, Music: *Irby*, H. J. Gauntlett (harmonized by A. H. Mann), arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015), Copyright © 1961 Oxford University Press. **Rorate Caeli** Music: Richard Proulx (1937–2010), Copyright © 1992 by Paraclete Press. **Adam lay ybounden** Words: anon. 15th century, Music: Frank Woodhouse Boles (b. 1955), Copyright © 1993 Paraclete Press. **E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come** Paul Manz (1919–2009), Copyright: © 1954, renewed 1982 by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. **O little town of Bethlehem** Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks, Music: English traditional tune arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), descant by Thomas Armstrong, Copyright © 1961 Oxford University Press. **A tender shoot** Words: Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907), English trans. William Bartholomew (1793–1867), Music: Otto Goldschmidt. **The angel Gabriel** Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924), Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943), Copyright © 2019 Encore Publications. **The first Nowell** English trad. carol arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015), Copyright © 1961 Oxford University Press. **Infant holy, infant lowly** Words: trad. Polish, tr. Edith M. G. Reed, Music: Polish carol arr. Gerre Hancock (1934–2012). **The Three Kings** Words: Peter Cornelius (1824–1874) and Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608), Music: Peter Cornelius. **On this day earth shall ring** Words: *Piae Cantiones* (1582); tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894–1929), Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582). **Toccata on Veni Emmanuel** Music: Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941), Copyright © 1996 by E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Clint Wilson, *Rector*

READERS

Suzanne Lyon, *Member of the Choir*

Alice Calabrese, *Student*

Karen Enderle, *Communications Manager*

Jessica Vanover, *Director over the Choristers*

Jacob Davis, *Fellow*

Ken Fleming, *Kentucky State Representative of the 48th District*

Dr. Kirk M. Rich, *Director of Music*

Kate Boyer, *Senior Warden*

The Rev. Clint Wilson, *Rector*

USHERS

Andrew Booker

Hamilton Kemper

GREETERS

Ben Butler

Sarah Butler

Whit Ruml



ST. FRANCIS
IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH