

St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.  
N. Billerica, MA 01862

# The First Sunday after Christmas Day

## Christmas Lessons & Carols



December 31, 2023  
9:00 am

Next Sunday begins our 3 months of one service at 10:00am

*If today is your first visit with us, welcome. We hope you will find peace and joy here.*

*Please visit our website for our live streamed and recorded services: [stannes-billerica.org](http://stannes-billerica.org)*

Welcome to St. Anne's!

The following service of readings and hymns about the story of Christianity and Christmas is particularly Episcopal. Sit back, or stand, and enjoy!

– a note from the Rev'd Jennifer Beal  
who is taking a Sunday of vacation.

Prelude

“What Child Is This?”

arr. Vince Guaraldi

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn

“Angels we have heard on high”

Hymnal 96 (v.1,2)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brave delight.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

(French carol, translated by James Chadwick, 1860)

Bidding Prayer

*Officiant*

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 place 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 has taught us:

*Officiant and People*

**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.

*Officiant*

The Almighty God bless us with 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.

Hymn before the Lessons “Of the Father’s love begotten”

Hymnal 82 (v.1)

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!.

*(French carol, translated by James Chadwick, 1860)*

## The Lessons

Lesson 1

Genesis 3:1-23

Ed Giroux

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from

the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you among all animals  
    and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
    and you will strike his heel."

Hymn

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

Hymnal 81 (v. 1)

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half spent was the night.

Lesson 2

Isaiah 7: 10-15

Sue Geen

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."

Lesson 3

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

John Geen

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
    my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
    he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
    and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
    and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
    to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hymn

“Hark! the herald angels sing”

Hymnal 87 (v. 1)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the newborn King!

*(text by Charles Wesley, 1739)*

Lesson 4

Hebrews 1:1-4

Norm Zarella

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hymn

“At the Name of Jesus”

Hymnal 435 (v. 1,2)

1 At the name of Jesus  
ev'ry knee shall bow,  
ev'ry tongue confess him  
King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.

*(text by Caroline Maria Noel)*

Lesson 5

Luke 2:1-20

Marguerite Massey

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Hymn

“O little town of Bethlehem”

Hymnal 79 (v. 1,2)

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 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all the earth.

*(text: Phillips Brooks)*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Hymn

"Good Christian friends, rejoice"

Hymnal 107 (v. 1)

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

*(text: 14<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn, translated by J.M. Neale)*

## Lesson 7

John 1:1-18

John Geen

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Blessed are you  
who bear the light  
in unbearable times,  
who testify  
to its endurance  
amid the unendurable,  
who bear witness  
to its persistence  
when everything seems  
in shadow  
and grief.

Blessed are you  
in whom  
the light lives,  
in whom  
the brightness blazes—  
your heart  
a chapel,  
an altar where  
in the deepest night  
can be seen  
the fire that  
shines forth in you  
in unaccountable faith,  
in stubborn hope,  
in love that illumines  
every broken thing  
it finds.

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*The Officiant says to the people*

Let us stand to pray.

The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Officiant and the people say the Collect together.*

**Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**



The Officiant concludes by saying

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

2 Corinthians 13:14

**People** Amen.

**Officiant** Let us bless the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn** “What star is this, with beams so bright” Hymnal 124 (v. 1,2)

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more beautiful than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King,  
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

2. True spake the prophet from afar  
who told the rise of Jacob's star;  
and eastern sages with amaze  
upon the wondrous token gaze.

*(text by Charles Coffin, 1736, translated from Latin by John Chandler)*

**Postlude** “Noel” Louis Claude D’Aquin

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As a way of minimizing touching shared objects, we have placed offering plates in both the front and rear of the church. We are very grateful for your gifts and offerings. You may leave them in the plates as you enter or leave our service of worship.

#### Ministers today

Officiant	Ms Rosemary Kinser
Lectors	Mr. Ed Giroux Ms. Sue Geen Mr. John Geen Mr. Norm Zarella Ms. Marguerite Massey
Readers	Baldwin Family
Director of Music and Organist	Mr. Peter Morelli
Singer	Ms. Maria Martin
Acolyte	Mr. John Geen
Ushers	Ms. Dotty Callihan Ms. Pat Cregg
Film Crew (Video)	Mr. Ken Kinser
Film Crew (Audio)	Mr. Mark Komarinski

Meetings in our parish this week (Dec 31 thru Jan 7)

Sunday(Today)	9:00 am	Christmas Lessons & Carols
Wednesday	9:30 am	Craft Group
Thursday	4:00 pm	Wardens & Clergy
Sunday(Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> )	10:00 am	Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday(Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> )	11:30 am	Nominating Committee

Priest's office hours

Tuesday 11-4  
Thursday 2-4

Parish Office hours

Tuesday 12- 5  
Thursday 2-5



*Thank you to all who have contributed to the adornment of our sanctuary this Christmas.*

*The plants and greens which so beautifully adorn our church this Christmas season are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:*

- ❖ *Cal Callihan, Catherine Kneeland, & Elizabeth Delvental from Dorothy Callihan.*
- ❖ *Christopher Zarella, Shirley Zarella, Jose & Maria Cunha from Norm & MJ Zarella.*
- ❖ *Eleonor Daley & Regina Fedukowski from Donald & Shirley Fedukowski.*
- ❖ *Edith, Russel & Kenneth McCarthy from Dave & Kathy Brewster.*
- ❖ *Inez & Major Cousens, Alma & Francis Moran-Guevara from George & Genevieve Cousens.*
- ❖ *Family, friends & loved ones from Marie Figenbaum.*
- ❖ *Jack Ratcliffe from Norma G. Ratcliffe.*
- ❖ *James Edward Holdman from Shirley Holdman.*
- ❖ *Loved ones from Bob & Linda Price, John & Sue Geen, John & Linda Kusnierz, Ron & Amy Desmarais.*
- ❖ *Marge Fudge & Dot Richard from Donald W. Fudge.*
- ❖ *Our parents & siblings from Chick & Nancy Meech.*
- ❖ *Robert Peck & Gladys White from Judy Peck.*
- ❖ *Stephen Garrett from Jean Flight.*



*And, to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for:*

- ❖ *All the lives that have touched ours, especially David & Marsha Hering, & Carol & John MacKenzie, & Tina from Brenda & Mark Komarinski.*
- ❖ *Each other from Chick & Nancy Meech.*
- ❖ *Family & friends from John & Sue Geen, John & Linda Kusnierz, Ken & Rosemary Kinser.*
- ❖ *Nova Leigh, great grand daughter from Carol Wood.*
- ❖ *Our daughters Amanda & Carolyn, our grandchildren Kendall & Jared from Richard & Marguerite Massey.*
- ❖ *The whole parish of St. Anne's from Jennifer Beal.*

## Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 31, 2023

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Anglican Church of Rwanda  
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Churches of the Alewife Deanery: Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington;  
St. James' Church, Somerville; Christ Church, Waltham; Congregation of St. Peter at Christ  
Episcopal Church, Waltham; Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown.  
Our Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin; Our Presiding Bishop, Michael; Our Bishops, Alan, and  
Carol; Our Priest, Jennifer

### St. Anne's Prayer List

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others

Anthony Vokey, Barbara Rogers & son Kevin, Brian Hering, Chick Meech, Chris Hering, Dale,  
Don, Donald Fudge, Frank Deloia, George Lyna, Janet Lyna, Janet Strong, Jean Flight, José  
Soreso, Joshua Young, Josy Hering, Kathy Chang, Lee Conley, Linda E., Lucy Ann Young &  
daughter Paula, Marie, Marie Horgan, Mary Lander, Michele O'Shea, Norm & MJ Zarella,  
Pat McCleave & granddaughter, Paul Hamner, Pete Jeffrey, Rebecca, Yaya & her family, Yvonne  
Hopkins.

Also we pray for our local friends from Haiti and their children who will leave Billerica soon. We  
pray for the next step in their journey to what we all take for granted - normalcy and stability.

Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world

### Announcements for December 31, 2023

- Please take a poinsettia, today, to a home-bound parishioner.
- NEXT SUNDAY begins our worship services at 10:00am.
- Join us for Coffee Hour today in Bixby Hall.
- **The date for our Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:30am. For those who are writing reports for the Annual Meeting, please send them to ([stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com)) by January 5.**
- Next Sunday, after church, will be a meeting of the Nominating Committee for two positions on the vestry and to affirm our volunteer leaders for all other positions.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
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Honoring the Pawtucket and Shawsheen peoples  
Social Justice - a way to allow everyone to feel welcome and respected when they come to worship