



A Festival of Lessons and Carols for The Epiphany

January 4, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church
Binghamton, New York

Prelude

Christmas Joy!
Gesù Bambino
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

The Trinity Ringers

arr. Dobrinski
Pietro Yon
arr. Dobrinski

*Processional Hymn 128

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Stanzas 2-4 are solos; please join on stanzas 1 & 5 and all refrains

*The Collect for the Epiphany

in unison

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Responsory for the Epiphany

Huw Williams

Arise, shine for thy light is come: and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold darkness shall cover the earth: and gross darkness the people. But the Lord shall arise upon thee: and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light: and Kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Carol When Christ was born of Mary free Tim Pratt (b. 1958)
*When Christ was born of Mary free, in Bethlehem that fair city, angels sang with mirth
and glee in excelsis gloria. Then shepherds saw these angels bright, to them appearing
with great light, who said: "God's Son is born this night, in excelsis gloria." This King is
come to save mankind as in the Scripture truths we find, therefore this song have we in
mind, in excelsis gloria. Then we pray, dear Lord, for thy great grace grant us the bliss to
see thy face that we may sing to thy solace, in excelsis gloria! -- 15th century*

Canticle Nunc Dimittis Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)
*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes
have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a
light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father...*

***Carol 124** **What Star Is This?** *Puer nobis*

Carol Bethlehem Down Peter Warlock (1894-1930)
*When He is King we will give him the King's gifts, Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a
crown, "Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph fair with her first-born on
Bethlehem Down.*

*Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by
Bethlehem fold.*

*When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets, Myrrh for embalming, and wood
for a crown, He that lies now in the white arms of Mary Sleeping so lightly on
Bethlehem Down.*

*Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming, Close-huddled oxen to keep Him
from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by
Bethlehem fold. – Bruce Blunt*

Lesson IV Magi Are Led by the Star to Jesus Matthew 2:1-12

Carol A Maiden Most Gentle Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

*A maiden most gentle and tender we sing of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave,
Maria. How blest is the birth of her heavenly child who came to redeem us in Mary so
mild. The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation and Saviour of all.
Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare and marveled in awe at the babe in
her care. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray sing praise to the Savior,
sing endless Ave. --The Venerable Bede*

***Carol 119 As with gladness men of old Dix**

Lesson V The Flight to Egypt Matthew 2:13-15

Carol The Shepherds' Farewell Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

*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!*

--L'Enfance du Christ

Lesson VI Herod Slays the Innocents Matthew 2:16-18

Carol

Coventry Carol

arr. Ian Humphris (1927-2012)

*Lully, lullah, thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lullay.
O sisters too, how may we do For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay"?*

*Herod the king, in his raging, Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight All young children to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor child, for thee And ever mourn and may
For thy parting neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay."*

--The Pageant of Shearsmen and Tailors

***Carol 92**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent Hodie

Lesson VII The Return to Nazareth Matthew 2:19-23

O Star (the fairest one in sight), we grant your loftiness the right to some obscurity of cloud — it will not do to say of night, since dark is what brings out your light.

*Some mystery becomes the proud. But to be wholly taciturn in your reserve is not allowed. Say something to us we can learn by heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'*

*But say with what degree of heat. Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend. Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid, but does tell something in the end.*

And steadfast as Keats' Eremite, Not even stooping from its sphere, it asks a little of us here. It asks of us a certain height, so when at times the mob is swayed to carry praise or blame too far, we may choose something like a star to stay our minds on and be staid.

—Robert Frost

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

*Carol 109

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

Organ Recessional

Stars

The Epiphany turns the Christmas nativity into an “ah-HA” truth: God has bestowed the world with Divine grace and love through the person of Jesus. Local shepherds were the first Nativity witnesses. Sometime after that, far beyond the land of Israel, Magi (kings, mystics, scientists, astronomers...) felt compelled to leave their homes for a journey, likely of indeterminate length. When this trip began, perhaps they knew the destination, or perhaps they did not know initially of a Child, worthy of remarkable gifts. Who can say what they learned as the journey unfolded?

We do know the light of a star was The Catalyst that inspired these travelers to seek something terribly important. Stars? In more recent times, Edison and his cronies diluted the deep darkness of the night. Stars haven't changed, but our perception of them has largely faded to that of wallpaper. Can you imagine feeling so drawn by the light of a particular star, billions of years old, billions of miles away, to pursue an unknown goal: a calling?

As modern awareness is now relentlessly horizontal, examining and probing everything and everyone on our planet on an hourly basis, the vast majority of us may not experience the “ah-HA” of a star's light. The stars are vertically so very far away. Oh, lovely pictures of them from telescopic gizmos appear on our devices. Such images are hardly compelling enough to drop what you're doing, climb on a camel and leave home for months.

Frost wrote: *so when at times the mob is swayed to carry praise or blame too far, we may choose something like a star to stay our minds on and be staid.* A star: a distinctive manifestation of the creation. A star: witness to centuries of being, doing, of peaceful silence. God sent angels to sing to shepherds. God placed stars for us to discover. Stars to remind us of wonder, of hope, new possibilities. The stars will shine thousands of years after we are forgotten.

May we be open to “ah-HA,” when we least expect it, of course! Keep looking.

The Trinity Choir

Timothy E. Smith, Organist & Music Director

Sopranos

Edris Boyll-Kuzia, Melissa Collins, Barbara Crowle,
Sharon Miriam, Christina Taylor

Altos

Martha Bennett, Nan Borton, Susan Carpenter,
Jess Dugatkin, Claudia Kachmarik, Rayleen Kie

Tenors

Brad Bennett, Charles Burch, Steve Crowle, Greg Keeler

Basses

John Chaffee, Andrew Clark, Peter Koeppel,
Alexis McAfee, Bob Peterson, Rick Shumaker

The Trinity Ringers

Carol Bartlett, Carolyn Blake, Judy St. John, Barbara Crowle,
Ginny Hill, Steve Crowle, Edris Boyll-Kuzia, Jean Henssler,
Brenda Truex, Phil Evans, Greg Keeler, Claudia Kachmarik

Lector

Helen Smith

Join us each Sunday morning!

8:30 Contemplative Eucharist

10:00 Eucharist with music

11:30 Adult Forum

12:00 Canteen Hot Lunch for the Community

TRINITY MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Mission: *To serve Christ passionately through self, family, parish and community.*

Our Identity: *A diverse people responding to God through worship and music, friendship and formation, generosity and service.*

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