Christmas Festival of

Lessons and Carols

Trinity College Chapel Sunday, December 7, 2025

66th Annual Trinity College Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols

The first Festival of Lessons and Carols was held in Truro, England, in 1880. In 1918, less than two months after the end of World War I, the dean of King's College, Cambridge, brought the service to the college chapel, offering comfort and hope in an England devastated by war.

In 1958, Lessons and Carols was introduced at Trinity College and has been offered annually ever since. Readers are chosen from within the college and broader community. Carols are sung by student ensembles, including The Chapel Singers and Trinity College Gospel Choir. Student organists offer voluntaries and accompany the hymns and carols, and the carillon is played before and following the services.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is an annual invitation to the Trinity College and Hartford community to discover anew the birth and saving power of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The congregation is invited to stand for prayers and hymns, and to be seated for the lessons and carols.

Please silence electronic devices.

Prelude

Ellen Dickinson, carillon

Variations sur un Noël, op. 20 Choral and variations I–IV, IX Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Elijah Morris '28, organ

Order of Service

Hymn in Procession

The congregation stands as the processional cross enters the Chapel.

Stanzas one and two are sung by the choir.

- 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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.



102, The Hymnal 1982

words: Sts. 1–2 and 4–6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929); desc. Paul Halley (1952)

The congregation remains standing.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we near 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 chapel 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 which he came to build, 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:

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.

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*.

The congregation is seated.

Bidding Carol

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, He has not made. All things were made by him.

"The Word was God" words: John 1:1–3 music: Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

First Lesson Genesis 3

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Carol

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 clerkès finden Written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady Abeen heavenè queen.

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

words: 15th century, English music: Robert Edward Smith (b. 1946)

Second Lesson Genesis 22

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.

Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me. Amen.

words: Amos 5:8; Psalm 139 music: Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

Third Lesson Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

Now behold the lamb The precious lamb of God Born into sin that I may live again The precious lamb of God

Holy is the lamb The precious lamb of God Why you loved me so Lord I shall never know The precious lamb of God

When I always didn't do right
I went left
He told me to go right
But I'm standin' right here in the midst of my tears
Lord I claim you to be the lamb of God

words and music: Kirk Franklin (b. 1070)

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn



79, *The Hymnal 1982;* words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893) music: *St. Louis,* Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908), arr. C. Houlihan

Fifth Lesson Luke 1

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 forever, 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." 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

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia. O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the Lord newborn lying in a manger!
O blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Christ Jesus.
Alleluia.

words: Responsory for Christmas Day music: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Sixth Lesson Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

Carol

Dost thou in a manger lie,
Who hast all created,
Stretching infant hands on high,
Savior, long awaited?
If a monarch, where thy state?
Where thy court on thee to wait?
Royal purple, where?
Here no regal pomp we see;
Naught but need and penury:
Why thus cradled here?

Pitying love for fallen man Brought me down thus low; For a race deep lost in sin, Came I into woe. By this lowly birth of mine, Sinner, riches shall be thine, Matchless gifts and free; Willingly this yoke I take, And this sacrifice I make, Heaping joys for thee.

Fervent praise would I to thee Evermore be raising;
For thy wondrous love to me Thee be ever praising.
Glory, glory be for ever Unto that most bounteous Giver, And that loving Lord!
Better witness to thy worth,
Purer praise than ours on earth,
Angels' songs afford.

words: Jean Mauburn (1460–1503), trans. Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1828–1896) music: Christopher Houlihan '09 (b. 1987)

Seventh Lesson Luke 2

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!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol

In dulci jubilo (In sweet jubilation)
Let us our homage show;
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio, (In the manger,)
And like a bright star shineth
Matris in gremio. (In his mother's lap.)
Alpha es et O. (Who is Alpha and Omega.)

O Jesu parvule, (O infant Jesus,)
My heart is sore for Thee!
Hear me, I beseech Thee,
O puer optime, (O child most excellent,)
My prayer let it reach Thee,
O princeps gloriae! (O prince of glory!)
Trahe me post te! (Draw me unto Thee!)

O patris caritas, (O love of the Father!)
O nati lenitas! (O newborn's gentleness!)
Deeply were we stainèd
Per nostra crimina; (For our sins;)
But thou hast for us gainèd
Coelorum gaudia. (The joys of heaven.)

O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, (Where are those joys,) If that they be not there? There are angels singing Nova cantica, (New songs,) There the bells are ringing In Regis curia: (In the King's court:) O that we were there!

words and music: Fourteenth century, German carol, arranged and translated by Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795–1856)

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2

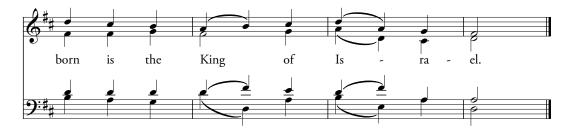
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn





6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord; that hath made heav'n and earth of nought and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*

words: English carol, 18th cent. music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840–1901) arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

The congregation remains standing for the ninth lesson and collect.

Ninth Lesson John 1

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.

Collect

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated.

Offertory

The offering will support the Chaplain's Discretionary Fund. Contributions may be made online by scanning the adjacent QR code with a mobile device—enter "Chaplain's Discretionary Fund" in the designation comment box.



When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

"The Work of Christmas," Howard Thurman

Organ Solo

Variations sur un Noël: V, VI, VII

Marcel Dupré

Elijah Morris '28, organ

Carol

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth!
O praise our Redeemer; all mortals on earth!
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation,
His praises we'll sing!
Alleluia, alleluia!

A heavenly vision
Appeared in the sky;
Vast numbers of angels
The shepherds did spy,
Proclaiming the birthday of
Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation,
His praises we'll sing!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Likewise a bright star
In the sky did appear,
Which led the wise men
From the East to draw near;
They found the Messiah,
Sweet Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation,
His praises we'll sing!
Alleluia, alleluia!

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold, And unto him offered Myrrh, incense and gold. So blessed for ever Be Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation, His praises we'll sing! Alleluia, alleluia!

words: English carol music: Robert Edward Smith Commissioned for the 66th Annual Trinity College Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols in honor of The Chapel Singers' Bicentennial.



words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.; music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915), arr. C. Houlihan

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen*.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*.

Retiring Procession

Variations sur un Noël: Fugato and Toccata

Marcel Dupré

Elijah Morris '28, organ

Postlude

Ellen Dickinson, carillon

Participants

The Right Reverend Jeffrey W. Mello 16th Bishop Diocesan, The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

> Daniel G. Lugo President of Trinity College

The Very Reverend Marcus George Halley College Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life

Christopher Houlihan '09 John Rose Distinguished College Organist, Director of Chapel Music, and Artist-in-Residence

> Ellen Dickinson College Carillonist

John Hayes, *piano*Anthony Williams, *director*Ministers of Music, Trinity College Gospel Choir

Chris Yi '26 Assistant Chapel Organist

Elijah Morris '28 Assistant Chapel Organist

Gary Capozziello, *violin* Alex McLaughlin, *viola* Katalin Viszmeg, *violin* Katherine Kennedy, *cello* Lauren Griffin '28, *timpani*

Readers

at Four O'clock

at Seven O'clock

I. Daniel G. Lugo President of Trinity College

II. Zarina Stone '26 president, The Chapel Singers

II. Grace Fangmann '26 vice president, The Chapel Singers

III. The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford III. Maribel Mendoza '26 Trinity College Chapel Guild of Acolytes

IV. The Rt. Rev. John Selders

Assistant Dean and Director of Community Standards & Restorative Justice;
Pastor, Amistad United Church of Christ, Hartford

V. Tom Calabrese '63

V. Willem Helms '28 Trinity College Chapel Community

VI. Nicholas C. Hanson '28 fellow, Trinity College Chapel Interfaith

VI. The Rev. Philippe E.C. Andal Senior Pastor, Community Baptist Church, New Haven

VII. Lisa Bisaccia '78 chair, Trustees of Trinity College

VII. Suzanne Blancaflor '80

VIII. Amber Gray '26 fellow, Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life VIII. The Rev. William Beaudin, O.F.M. Roman Catholic Priest Associate; Parochial Vicar & Guardian, St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, Hartford

IX. The Very Rev. Marcus George Halley Chaplain to the College and Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life

The Chapel Singers

Soprano

N.T

Tenor Nicholas Keim '26, treasurer

Anna McAdams '28 Tracy Xu '26 Grace Fangmann '26, vice-president and marshall Valentina Meléndez Puente '29

Luca Paleologo '27 Tommy Carty '28 Nicholas Cimillo '26,

secretary and marshall

Beck Smith '29

Alto

Bass

Abigail Gomes '28 Abigail Maiello '27 Will Bannon '28 Amber Gray '26 Chris Yi '26

Zarina Stone '26, *president* Claire Murray '27

Kat St. Amand '28

Ethan Ambrossi '27 Elijah Morris '28

Benjamin Wulf '29

Christopher Houlihan '09, director

Trinity College Gospel Choir

Jayda Clarke '26, *president* Sonjah Dessalines '22 Leenah Gibbs '27, *social media* Danny Jovan '23 Deion Kelly '23 Amari Mitchell '27

John Hayes, *piano* Anthony Williams, *director*

Trinity College Guild of Acolytes

William Brennan '27, verger Nicholas C. Hanson '28, crucifer Julia Warren, crucifer Luke Izzo '26, thurifer Maribel Mendoza '26, torchbearer Sekai Imbayarwo-Chikosi '27, torchbearer Clive Connelly '29, torchbearer Jimmy Balboni '29, torchbearer

Trinity College Chapel

Alex Slap Chapel Music Assistant

Jennifer Fancher Chapel Administrator and Spiritual & Religious Life Program Coordinator

> Christopher D.H. Row '91 Chapel Curator

Investing in Our Future

Since its consecration over 90 years ago, the Trinity College Chapel has grounded the college community and become a landmark for Greater Hartford. It is an architecturally significant home for spiritual, musical, and artistic reflection for all of us.

The college is undertaking a campaign for the restoration of the chapel and to provide endowment to sustain chapel programming and personnel for generations to come.

If you would like to learn more about the plans, please contact Ellen Hart M'18 in the Advancement Office at ellen.hart@trincoll.edu or 860-297-4148.

18

Chapel Music Events

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. More information is at www.trincoll.edu/ChapelMusic. Please email ChapelMusic@trincoll.edu to join our mailing list.

THE CHAPEL SINGERS

Choral Evensong

Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. February 11, April 1, April 22, 2026 The Chapel Singers in Concert Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

TRINITY ORGAN SERIES

Presented by Chapel Music and Department of Music

Lunchtime Thursdays

12:10 p.m. Recital by **Ellen Dickinson**, College Carillonist. *A light lunch is offered.*

12:45 p.m. Organ recital

February 5, 2026: **Joshua Ehlebracht**, St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk

March 5, 2026: **Sarah Johnson** Trinity on the Green, New Haven

April 9, 2026: Alex Hodgkinson, St. Theresa's Church, Trumbull (Please note date)

Twilight Tuesdays

Brandon Patrick George, flute Christopher Houlihan, organ

March 25, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. Grammy Award-winning flutist in performance with Trinity College organist. The Annual Clarence Watters Memorial Recital

> James O'Donnell, organ June 2, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Professor of organ at Yale University and former organist of Westminster Abbey

Presented with the Greater Hartford

American Guild of Organists

Senior Recital: **Chris Yi '26**, organ Friday, April 24, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. Assistant Chapel Organist, Trinity College Chapel

MORE MUSIC

CONCORA

Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Snow date: Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"Music & Art"

Chris Shepard, conductor.

Tickets required: www.CONCORA.org

77th Annual Summer Music Series

Five Wednesdays, June 24–July 22, 2026 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

A popular Hartford and Trinity tradition! Concerts in the Chapel are followed by carillon recitals on the Main Quad, featuring the 49-bell Plumb Memorial Carillon.

Save the date

67th Annual Trinity College Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.