

# **An Advent Festival of Lessons, Carols, and Pageantry**

**Saint Egbert School and Parish Music Ministry**

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# 1 Saint Egbert School and Parish Music Ministry

December 13, 2025 | 7:00 PM

## 1.0.1 Overview

This site outlines a **draft** program for a proposed **Advent Festival of Lessons, Carols, and Pageantry** that combines a traditional [Advent Lessons and Carols](#), popularized by [King's College in Cambridge](#), with St. Egbert School's traditional Christmas pageant. This is merely a starting point to consider and, possibly, for us to build upon and iterate through.

Presumably this would take place some evening in Advent, like the pageant. Date and time TBD pending approval.

## 1.0.2 Integrating the Christmas Pageant

This draft program currently contains nine readings (which is customary, but could be reduced to 7 if needed) and proposed songs for each. Pageant scenes can be plugged in wherever they align with the lessons, presumably starting around Lessons 4, 5, or 6. The Christmas song [O Come, Little Children](#) could be sung at whatever lesson contains their first acting scene—or the lesson immediately before that—as they move into place. (It's currently scheduled at Lesson 6 but this could be too late in the line up.) Kids singing in chorus/choir can be included from the very beginning or sporadically throughout.

Presumably the readings could replace pageant narrations and silent acting scenes could be performed while the corresponding song is being sung. Any scenes with spoken parts would probably be most appropriate after the reading and before the song. To be determined.

### 1.0.3 A note on music

Lessons and Carols is a lot of music, as the name implies, but with a couple exceptions, all songs and hymns here are familiar to the parish/choir. [Mary, Did You Know](#) was included upon request from the kids. We will need to purchase this if we use it.

The vision is to include the parish choir (with regular evening rehearsals between now and December), school chorus (weekly practice during the school day), any kids from the parish who do not attend the school (considering a regular practice on Sunday mornings), and instrumentalists (band members from last year plus new members, possibly Hispanic musicians if interested, with weekly rehearsals between now and December). In the future, if we opt to go this route, we could also use this as an opportunity to stand up and integrate a St. Egbert School Alumni Choir and also extend invitations to musicians in neighboring parishes.

There are obviously many popular and familiar Christmas carols from which to choose. We can substitute with some that the kids might be more familiar with this year, if needed, given the timeframe and how this would already be a change.

**Use the side bar at the left or the navigation links at the bottom of each page to review the outline.**

## 2 Introit

### 2.0.1 Prelude

#### 2.0.1.1 Maranatha, Lord Messiah Kathy Powell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQQjF8pTBV4>

Adult choir before service starts?

### 2.0.2 Processionals

#### 2.0.2.1 Children's entrance: Once In Royal David's City IRBY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmspXB6IUeg>

Children process in reverently starting with verse 2.

- Choristers process down middle aisle, turn left, and process to choir area.
- Pageant performers process down middle aisle and into front pews (or wherever they will be seated.)

Try to make this procession slow and reverent as the hymn is sung.

- Verse 1: Student solo(?) *a capella*
- Verse 2: Adult choir *a capella*
- Verse 3: Combined choirs with organ
- Verse 4: Children's choir with organ
- Verse 5: Combined choirs with congregation and descant(?) with full organ

#### **2.0.2.2 Lectors, presider: O Come, Divine Messiah VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1hCHbiEOuY>

Book bearer and Presider (others?) process as usual.

Choirs and congregation sing full hymn. Accompanied on piano and/or organ.

#### **2.0.3 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 10 min Total: 10 min**

## 3 First Lesson

**The Fall of Man:** *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.* Genesis 3:8-15, 20

### 3.1 Lesson

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After the woman and the man had eaten from the tree,  
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.”

God 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.”

The man gave his wife the name “Eve,”  
because she was the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

## **3.2 Carol**

### **3.2.0.1 Night of Silence / Silent Night Daniel Kantor**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMVgMmj2Sio>

Arrangement options: - Adults sing “Night of Silence”, kids hum (ooo’s) “Silent Night” under last verse - Combination like in recording

## **3.3 Prayer**

Lord of mercy,  
despite our sinfulness,  
you never stopped loving us.  
Fill our hearts with your mercy,  
that we may forgive others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **3.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 6 min Total: 16 min**

## 4 Second Lesson

**Promise of Salvation:** *Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

### 4.1 Lesson

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

## **4.2 Carol**

### **4.2.0.1 Comfort, Comfort, O My People GENEVAN 42**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrvXny0h\\_tw&list=RDhrvXny0h\\_tw&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrvXny0h_tw&list=RDhrvXny0h_tw&start_radio=1)

## **4.3 Prayer**

### **4.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 4 min Total: 20 min**

## 5 Third Lesson

**Davidic King:** *With righteousness he shall judge the poor.* Isaiah 11:1-10

### 5.1 Lesson

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On that day:

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.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand  
as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him,  
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

## **5.2 Carol**

### **5.2.0.1 People, Look East BESANÇON**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGjPQ5yitcM>

## **5.3 Prayer**

Lord,  
we wait for the day of your peace.  
May we help to bring this peace  
in our families, our communities, and our world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **5.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 5 min Total: 25 min**

## 6 Fourth Lesson

**The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus:** *You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.* Luke 1:26-38

### 6.1 Lesson

A reading from gospel according to Luke.

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 the angel came to Mary 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.

“And now,  
your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;  
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.  
For nothing will be impossible with 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.

The word of the Lord.

## **6.2 Carol**

### **6.2.0.1 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came GABRIEL'S MESSAGE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Rv-J46gyM>

## **6.3 Prayer**

Lord,  
you asked Joseph and Mary to trust in you.  
May we come to share in their trust  
and always rely on you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **6.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 5 min Total: 30 min**

## 7 Fifth Lesson

**The Birth of Jesus:** *Jesus was born of Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, son of David.*  
Matthew 1:18-24

### 7.1 Lesson

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew:

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man  
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,  
planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
“Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,  
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.  
She will bear a son,  
and you are to name him Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place  
to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means, “God is with us.”  
When Joseph awoke from sleep,  
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;  
he took her as his wife.



The word of the Lord.

## **7.2 Carol**

**7.2.0.1 Mary, Did You Know?<sup>1</sup> Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1-scfD1s>

## **7.3 Prayer**

### **7.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 6 min Total: 36 min**

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<sup>1</sup>We will need to purchase a version of this from somewhere.

## 8 Sixth Lesson

**The Birth of Jesus:** *To you is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah.* Luke 2:8-20

### 8.1 Lesson

A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

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. When they saw this,

they made known what had been told them about this child;

and all who heard it were amazed  
at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words  
and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God. for all they had heard and seen,  
as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord.

## 8.2 Carol

### 8.2.0.1 1. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZQGgpqQhs4>

Full choirs and congregation; transition to Christmas music

### 8.2.0.2 2. O Come, Little Children IHR KINDERLEIN, KOMMET

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4ZkfUAiGCM>

Pageant participants move into place during this song.

#### Note

If the pageant has scenes prior to the birth of Jesus, this song can be moved earlier in the program.

## 8.3 Prayer

Lord,  
you came to us in humility and vulnerability.  
May we always show loving care to those around us,  
especially those in most need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### 8.3.1 Estimated time

**This lesson:** 10 min **Total:** 46 min

## 9 Seventh Lesson

**Visit of the Magi:** *We have come from the East to pay homage to the king.* Matthew 2:1-12

### 9.1 Lesson

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

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.

The word of the Lord.

## **9.2 Carol**

### **9.2.0.1 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2xzRghgpR0>

Full choirs plus congregation

## **9.3 Prayer**

Lord,  
you are the giver of all good gifts.  
May we always remember to share our gifts with others  
for the glory of your name.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **9.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 7 min Total: 53 min**

# 10 Eighth Lesson

TBD

*Lessons and Carols generally contain 5, 7, or 9 lessons. We need one more to have 9, so...*

## 10.1 Lesson

Is there another scene that the kids act out that has not been included?

## 10.2 Carol

Or is there another traditional pageant song that should be included?

Alternatively, we can eliminate this and the Second Lesson to have only 7 total. This would trim an estimated 11 minutes from the program.

### Note

Most Lessons and Carols programs are 90 min to 2 hours long, so we are far from abnormal even with nine lessons. Also, the pageant scenes likely only overlap with the second half of this, so the kids would only have “acting” roles for ~40 min.

## 10.3 Prayer

### 10.3.1 Estimated time

**This lesson: 7 min Total: 60 min**

# 11 Ninth Lesson

**Prologue to John:** *The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.*  
John 1:1-14

## 11.1 Lesson

A reading from the gospel according to John.

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.

The word of the Lord.

## **11.2 Carol**

### **11.2.0.1 Go Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq35FUbwZl4>

## **11.3 Prayer**

God of power and might,  
you are beyond all time and space.  
May we never fail to recognize your majesty  
and give praise to you in all we do.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### **11.3.1 Estimated time**

**This lesson: 5 min Total: 65 min**



# 12 Concluding Rites

Closing remarks, prayer, blessing, etc.

## 12.1 Recessional Hymn

### 12.1.0.1 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHS7StIz1S8>

Readers, presider, etc. process out. Pageant performers procession optional.

#### 12.1.1 Estimated time

**This lesson:** 10 min **Total:** 75 min

## 12.2 Postlude

### 12.2.0.1 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRwGu5iq42k>

#### 12.2.1 Estimated time

**Total:** 80 min