



## Music Notes



Cindy Holden, Director of Music

We await angels singing, shepherds sharing good news, the star overhead, signaling the arrival of the *most important Star* – our Morning Star! The next several weeks include MANY opportunities to take in music of the fantastic seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany in a variety of ways and places!

**Saturday, November 25 St. John's Eagle Eye Ringers** play at the **Sayville Historical Society** (Collins Ave & Edwards Street). Stroll down the road from *Miracle on Main*, take a chair in the barn and enjoy the "caroling" of handbells 5-8pm!

**Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30pm - the Feast of St. Nicolas** is celebrated at the Advent Midweek Services. **SoLI - The Singers of Long Island** sing carols and portions of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* as part of the service. The mass is based on themes taken from French Christmas carols – several of which will be included. Join us and feast well on the spiritual food, the music and a tasty soup & sandwich supper (6:30pm) with family and friends!

**Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm** – St. John's annual **Advent Service of Lessons & Carols** with readers, our choirs & musicians helps focus on the reason for the season. Turkey dinner follows. *Note: reservations are a must for dinner!*

**Saturday, December 23** at 6:30pm and **Sunday, Dec. 24** at 9am – a carol service centered on the Virgin Mary's journey brings more opportunities to sing Christmas favorites.

**Christmas Eve** at 3, 5, 7 & 11pm and **Christmas Day** at 11am all include carols of Lord's birth, sung and played in a multitude of ways by the congregation and our many fine & growing musicians as we share in the joy of the Incarnation!

**Saturday, January 6 - Epiphany** Treble & Youth Choirs & bell music grace the continuing journey at the 6:30pm service.

*Epiphany* is the anniversary of the first service I attended at St. John's, complete with music, beautiful Christmas trees, poinsettias, wreaths, ribbons, roping & candlelight. That evening I took in God's glory as it was being revealed in the service simply as a receptive observer/participant, rather than as one heavily involved in seeing that the musical portions of the service go as they should. That slight move from organ bench to pew was huge in granting a glimpse at God's restorative work from a different perspective. It drew me back to St. John's in the weeks to come. While I had no expectations of being the Director of Music at the time, God clearly had something else in mind. There was a similar "epiphany" when I was asked to be a torch bearer at St. Bartholomew's Church in NYC, carrying the light of Christ into the church; and another at a Lutheran conference when asked to be a reader of God's Word to His people.

Peter, James and John climbed a mountain with Christ – perhaps not expecting much more than conversation, exercise and a good view, but their Lord was transfigured before them. They saw his glory and heard the Father's voice; they caught a glimpse of Moses and Elijah, too.

As this next church year approaches, consider that you might experience God's glory anew. Dare to try something here at St. John's that you haven't done before; listen for the Spirit's prompting (or the Pastor's pleading!) and see what joys might be in store for you if you allow yourself willing hands, feet, mouth or voice – whatever it is God is asking of you!

"And the glory, the glory of the Lord, shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together! For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it," writes George Frideric Handel, quoting Isaiah 40:5 in his masterful oratorio *Messiah*. Whether expectant or blindsided, may we all share in that glory of God as Christ is being revealed to us yet again in the days ahead!