

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2021



Queen Santa and fans

Dear Ones,

This Sunday, we'll enjoy two of our favorite annual traditions — the Lessons and Carols service at 11:00, followed by the Carol Sing at 1:30 — with a COVID twist: We'll be outside (and on Zoom) for the Carol Sing! Director of Music Mark David Buckles and his staff have all our favorite carols queued up for us!

Highlights of the morning service include a Christmas medley on piano by Cheng Cheng; *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, *Silver Bells*, and *A Vaughan Williams Christmas* — a medley of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *Gloucestershire Carol* (“Wassail! Wassail! All over the town”), and *The Sussex Carol* (“On Christmas night all Christians sing / To hear the news the angels bring”), led by Hannah Shanefield (soprano), Bek Zehr (mezzo), and Daniel Rosensweig (tenor); *In the Bleak Midwinter*; *Go Tell It On the Mountain*; *What Child Is This*; *Wexford Carol* (“Good people, all, this Christmas time / Consider well and bear in mind”); *Angels We Have Heard on High*; and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* led in different combinations of Cheng (piano and organ), Julie Metcalf (violin and viola), Mark David (guitar), and Matt Malikowski (percussion); and *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)* by Joe Della Penna (piano).

John O'Connor will kindle the fourth candle of the Advent wreath for Peace. There will be lessons — from Dickens to O. Henry and Tolstoy to *The Polar Express*, as well as a new one from Margaret Renkl — told by Ali Jablonsky, Rev. Beth, John, and me. Cheng concludes the service concludes with *Sleigh Ride!*

The Carol Sing will happen sun or snow (!). Queen Santa and her elves will pass hot mulled cider, treats, and good cheer through the crowd. Please invite friends! Christmas Eve candles will be available to take home for our cozy Zoom celebration next Friday night.

Let's be together on Sunday to make some magic and conjure the joy of the season!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

A recent Wednesday Tea Party conversation prompt was, *If you could have any animal feature, what would it be?*

Here are our responses:

Marsupial: pouch

Gibbon: long-armed "wingspan." If a human had gibbon arms, a 5'6" person would have an 11' span!

Snake: venom

Baboon: social groupings

Dolphin: swimming, enjoying the sun (even better: a dolphin with human legs and arms and hands — to eat a sandwich!)

Firefly and jellyfish: bioluminescence (also, see duck-billed platypus, below)

Duck: a downy layer

Cat: purring

Black panther: lazing around in the sun, amazing muscles

Dragon: fly, teleporting on planes of time

Kestrel: wings, flight

Amphibious animal: gills

Great Horned Owl: hearing

Grey Wolf: sense of smell

Golden Eagle: eagle eyesight

Hawk: long-distance vision

Bull or Bison: strength

Oxen: horns on the head, ploughing

Animal Tail: one that is speedy, flexible, and cheerful, specifically, a "flag tail" with streamers

Cat: whiskers (to know if you fit into a tight space), ability to sleep anywhere, deep contentment and present-moment peace

Seagull: relaxed, gliding, at home by the sea

Lion: graceful

Whale: huge, able to swim all the oceans

Golden Retriever Puppy: unguarded enthusiasm, thumping tail in greeting, without reticence

Chimp: fast tree-climber

Duck-billed platypus: fun, funny, a mammal that lays eggs, and — get ready for it — the platypus is also 1. one of the few mammals to produce venom and ... 2. research in bio-fluorescence revealed that the platypus glows a blush-green color when exposed to black light!

