

Christmas Eve 2020

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Lessons & Carols



*For unto us,
a child is born!*

Welcome

We welcome all who gather to worship on this holy night, wherever you are. Whether you are with family, friends, or by yourself, remember we are all together in Christ - the very one whose birth we celebrate this evening. As we celebrate the birth of our savior, may God fill your hearts with peace, love, joy and hope.

Prelude

Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

Franklin Ritter

Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

*O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come Ye, O come Ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!
(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all Ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
(Refrain)*

Lighting the Christ Candle

We have watched;
we have waited in hope...for peace...in joy!...with love.
Now our redemption draws near and we see the light of Christ.

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Those who walked in the dark
have seen a bright light.
And it shines upon everyone
who lives in the land
of darkest shadows.

A child has been born for us.
We have been given a son
who will be our ruler.
His names will be
Wonderful Advisor
and Mighty God,
Eternal Father
and Prince of Peace.

His power will never end;
peace will last forever.
He will rule David's kingdom
and make it grow strong.
He will always rule
with honesty and justice.
The Lord All-Powerful
will make certain
that all of this is done.

Prayer of the Day

Living God, on this holy night we gather – to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

Second Lesson

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The Angel Appears to Mary

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.

Special Music

Holy Infant's Lullaby

Norman Dello Joio

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

The Child is Born

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight!*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to all on earth!*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Angels and Shepherds

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!"

Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:15-18

Shepherds and the New Born King

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.

Carol

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wisemen Seek Jesus

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.

Carol

We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts, we traverse far
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, Following yonder star*

*Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of might
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light*

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold we bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign
(Refrain)*

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

The Light of the World

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.

**Homily
Carol**

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

*Silent night, Holy night!
'round yon virgin, mother and child.
Sleep in heavenly peace,*

*All is calm, all is bright,
Holy infant, so tender and mild:
Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*Silent night, Holy night!
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
"Christ, the Savior, is born, "Christ, the Savior, is born!"*

*Silent night, Holy night!
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,*

*Son of God, love's pure light
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth!*

*Silent night, Holy night!
With the angels let us sing: "Alleluia to our King!
"Christ, the Savior, is born, "Christ, the Savior, is born!"*

Wondrous star, lend thy light.

***Benediction**

***Closing Carol**

Joy to the World!

Antioch

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let Earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the World! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make, His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of, His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And Wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His Love!*

***Postlude**

Born Is He, the Divine Christ Child

Patricia Lou Harris