

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE: ST. MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS VIDEO WITH GÉSU BAMBINO,
PIETRO YON (SUNG BY CLAIRE WRIGHT, FROM THE WOMEN'S SINGING CIRCLE'S *VENITE
ADOREMUS* CD)

OPENING CAROL: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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!

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father; [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, glory in the highest;" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

THE BIDDING PRAYER

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*

CAROL: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

David & Robin Arcus

**FIRST LESSON: THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR
(ISAIAH 9: 2, 6-7)**

Todd Holland

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL: FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH THEY CAME

Mary Rocap

**SECOND LESSON: THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN
(ISAIAH 11: 1-4A; 6-9)**

Susan Bauer

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: I WONDER AS I WANDER

Bill Kodros

THIRD LESSON: THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN

MARY (LUKE 1: 26-35, 38)

Yvonne Petitmaire

A Reading from the Gospel of 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 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 for ever, 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: MARIA WIEGENLIED

Andrea Edith Moore

FOURTH LESSON: THE BIRTH OF JESUS UNFOLDS (LUKE 2:1, 3-7) Cindy Cook

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: SILENT NIGHT

Curt Stagner, Lily Stagner

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing al-le-lu-ia;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth

FIFTH LESSON: THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER (LUKE 2: 8-16) Rich Harris

A Reading from the Gospel of 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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Jill Hofler

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]

SIXTH LESSON: THE MAGI ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS

(MATTHEW 2: 1-12)

Hayes Hofler

A Reading from the Gospel of 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

Thanks be to God

CAROL: ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING, PERSONENT HODIE (sung by members and friends of the Adult Choir)

SEVENTH LESSON: JOHN THE EVANGELIST PROCLAIMS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION (JOHN 1: 1-14)

Jehanne Gheith

A Reading from the Gospel of 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
Thanks be to God

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray, saying, "*We pray to you, O Lord.*"

That this night may be holy, good, and peaceful.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Elizabeth and Zechariah, may be open to surprise and wonder at your presence in our lives, even when you seem most distant.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Joseph, may journey faithfully, trusting in your guidance and care, as we care for others.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Mary, may be bearers of Christ to a broken and needy world.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the shepherds, may seek you in places poor and lowly, praying especially for those without food or shelter; for those who are sick; and for those caught in the changes and chances of this life.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the animals, may serve Christ with warmth and companionship.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the angels, may proclaim good tidings of great joy through the hope and love of Christ.

We pray to you, O Lord.

The Celebrant concludes:

O Lord, hear our prayers: Give us courage to seek you, hope to proclaim you, and strengthen our hearts to do your will; through the love of Christ, our Emmanuel. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

CRECHE BLESSING

V. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

R. **And we beheld his glory.**

CLOSING CAROL: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 angelic hosts proclaim:

"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored

Christ the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come

Offspring of a Virgin's womb

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell

Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE: *IN DULCI JUBILO*, S. 729 (J. S. BACH)