

Christmas Eve ZOOM Worship Bulletin
December 24th, 2021
7:00 PM

Prelude: “Joy to the World”

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Congregation together

This evening we light the four Advent candles and the Christ Candle We light the candle of Hope remembering the Hope of Christ’s coming, the dream that Christ’s gifts of healing are for all the world. (Light a candle)

We light the candle of Peace knowing that it is God’s grace that will end all division and fighting on the earth. (Light a second candle)

We light the candle of Joy celebrating and remembering that the joy of the Lord is our strength and will be our source of courage in this world. (Light a third candle if you are using a pink candle, please lit that one here*)

We now light the candle of Love because it is out of love that God sent his Son into the world to save all of us. (Light a fourth candle)

(Light the Christ Candle) – responsively

led by Kris Bartelt

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said, **“for to you a savior is born.”**

“Peace on earth,” the choir sang, **“for God reigns in the highest.”**

“Follow me,” the star beckoned, **“For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”**

As we light the Christ candle,

we watch for the Christmas story around us.

Emmanuel has come and is coming.

Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

Let Us Pray: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christmas Carol: “ O Come All Ye Faithful”

Everyone

*This version of 'O Come, all ye faithful' is part of 'Carols in a box',
a series of recordings put together by friends from churches across London.*

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:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of light,
lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created.
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 in the highest':
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.

*MUSIC (ADESTE FIDELES, Irregular): John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906
Led by Richard Simpkin, Audio by Sam Barber*

A Bidding Prayer

Carol Wetzel

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Congregation together

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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Lynn Mellentien

(from the Book of Genesis, the third chapter verses 8 through 15)

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.
⁸They 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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ¹⁴The 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.
¹⁵ 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.'

"My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" vs. 1&2 (Canticle of the Turning) *Carol Wetzel*

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990; © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

*MUSIC (STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular): Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
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Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

Carol Wetzel

(from the Book of Genesis, the twenty-second chapter, verses 15-18)

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Christmas Carol GTG #123: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1, 4 & 5 *Everyone*

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

TEXT: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt.

MUSIC (CAROL, CMD): Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

(from the prophet Isaiah, the ninth chapter, verse 2 and verses 6-7)

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

² 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.

John Neville

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (violin solo)

Jaeda R.

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2–4

Jolene Schry

(the prophet Micah, the fifth chapter, verses 2-4)

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

Christmas Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Everyone

*This version of “O Little Town of Bethlehem” is part of ‘Carols in a box’,
a series of recordings put together by friends from churches across London.*

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.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven,
no ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

*MUSIC (FOREST GREEN) English Melody; adpt. And Hrm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Led by Richard Simpkin, Visuals by Ian Dingle, Audio by Sam Barber*

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26–38

John Neville

(from the Gospel of Luke, the first chapter, verses 26-38) -- The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then 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.

“Give Thanks with A Grateful Heart”

Nancy Pitzen

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Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18–23

Jolene Schry

(from the Gospel of Matthew, the first chapter, verses 18-23) - Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹⁸ Now 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'

Christmas Carol GTG #113: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Everyone

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.

MUSIC (GLORIA 7.7.7.7 with refrain): French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr. (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8–16

Lynn Mellentien

(from the Gospel of Luke the second chapter, verses 8-16) -- The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

"Away in a Manger" (violin and cello duet)

Jaeda and Leah

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Jolene Schry

(from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-11) -- The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, '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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.' ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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.

Christmas Carol GTG #151: "We Three Kings"

Everyone

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. [refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

TEXT: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.

MUSIC (KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6 with refrain): John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1–14

Jennifer Zander

(from the Gospel of John, the first chapter, verses 1-14) -- John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

Christmas Carol: “Silent Night”

Everyone

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 “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

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.

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MUSIC (STILLE NACHT, Irregular): Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818*

The Prayer and Blessing: Kris Bartelt

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction (*responsively led by Kris Bartelt*)

In darkness we arrived.

In light we now leave.

Though once we stumbled,

we now walk with confidence.

Rise up and go, for the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

May the light of Christ lead us forevermore.

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmastide BY EMILY R. BRINK

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