

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24th, 2018

Prelude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen - arr. Faber
He is Born, the Divine Child - arr. Larson
The First Noel - arr. Hartsell

Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? We gather in the darkness of this Christmas Eve night to celebrate the newborn Light.

Congregation: With family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.

Pastor: With Mary we will ponder these things in our hearts.

Congregation: With Joseph we will give thanks to the Lord for God's steadfast love.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, THE CHILD, has been born!

Congregation: We gather to worship him and welcome His peaceful kingdom.

Pastor: His name will be blessed among all the earth.

Congregation: His reign shall have no end!

All: Let us come and worship the newborn King!

***Opening Carol**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

No. 227

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy_ news of_ great mirth, news of our merciful_ King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin_ he set_ us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men_ with joy_ may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God_ and peace_ to men, now and forevermore. Amen.”

***Prayer of Invocation**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Christ

The Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 194

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient time didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

The Second Lesson

The angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Ministry of Music

Mary Did You Know

Denise, Kara, Elyssa O'Neal

Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God?
Oh Mary did you know?

The blind will see; the deaf will hear; the dead will live again.
The lame will leap; the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Oh Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great I Am?
Oh Mary oh.

The Third Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

Matthew and Luke tell of the birth of the Christ

Ministry of Music

O Holy Night

Becky Schoon

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
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 Emmanuel!

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds are told of the birth of the Christ.

The CarolHark! the Herald Angels Sing*

No. 203

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."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men 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 Sun 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."

Ministry of Music

What Child Is This? Amberleigh Greene and Kara O'Neal

The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men follow the star that leads them to the Christ

Ministry of Music

One Small Child

Elyssa O'Neal and Alanna Tuitman

One small Child in a land of a thousand;
One small dream of a Savior tonight.
One small hand reaching out to the starlight;
One small city of life.

One king bringing his gold and riches;
One King ruling an army of might.
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight,
One King bringing us life.

See Him lying, a cradle beneath Him;
See Him smiling in the stall.
See His mother praising His Father;
See His tiny eyelids fall.

One small light from the flame of a candle;
One small light from a city of might.
One small light from the stars in the endless night,
One small light from a face.

See the shepherd kneeling before Him;
See the kings on bended knee.
See His mother praising His Father;
See the Blessed Infant sleep.

One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream in a people of might.
One small hand reaching out to the starlight;
One small Savior of life.

The Sixth Lesson

John 1:1-14

John speaks of the great mystery of the incarnation,

The Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten

No. 162

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have _ been,
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

This is He whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long expected,
let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
All dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

***The Nicene Creed**

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We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;

