

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **Prelude**

*Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming  
Infant Holy*

arr. Wolaver  
arr. Tolson

## **Welcome & Call to Worship**

### **\*Opening Carol**

*Once in Royal David's City*

No. 225 vs. 1, 2, 5

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

### **The First Lesson - Genesis 3:1-15**

The Fall of man, and the first proclamation of the Gospel.

### **The Carol**

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

No. 195

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 earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, 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.

### **The Second Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6-7**

The Prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of Christ.

#### **The Carol**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 194 vs. 1, 3, 5

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

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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **The Third Lesson - Micah 5:2-5**

The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

## **The Carol**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

No. 201 vs. 1

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.

## **The Fourth Lesson - Luke 1:26-38**

The Angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary.

## **The Fifth Lesson - Luke 1:46-56**

The Virgin Mary responds to the words of the Angel Gabriel in worship and humility.

## **Ministry of Music**

*Angel Carol*

by Anna Laura Page

Hear the bells of Christmas ringing, allelu, alleluia;  
Swift the wings of angels singing alleluia.  
Angels singing, noels ringing, gladsome tidings bringing:  
Christ is Lord of all.

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

**The Sixth Lesson** - **Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7**

St. Matthew and St. Luke tell of the birth of Jesus.

**\*The Carol**

*What Child Is This?*

No. 213

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**The Seventh Lesson** - **Luke 2:8-16**

The Shepherds are led by the Star to Jesus.

**The Carol**

*Away in a Manger*

No. 205

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 on 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 till 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.

**The Eighth Lesson - Matthew 2:1-11**

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

**The Carol**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

No. 208 vs. 1, 4

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.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**The Ninth Lesson - John 1:1-14**

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

**\*The Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

No. 214

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?  
Refrain: 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.  
Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**Meditation**

*Angels' Song*

**\* Lighting of Candles**

*Silent Night! Holy Night*

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When passing the flame, please do not move the lit candle.

Keep the lit candle upright and vertical.

Move the unlit candle to the lit candle to pass the flame.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

arr. Innes

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**\* Congregation:** Please stand as able.

**Piano**

Sandy DeGroot & Sandy Schoon

**Bells**

Sandy Schoon

**Duet**

Becky & Nelson Schoon

**Readers from Valparaiso Mennonite Church & Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church**

**Pastors John Heflick and Andrew Gretzinger**

**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,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
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.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
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.**