



First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve 2020



Prelude —Jennie Odello, piano

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and *Christ Candle*; an invitation for people to light a candle at home

Opening Instrumental “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” —Denise Odello, oboe and Deb Mahoney, piano

Opening Litany

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 you, O Israel.

O Come, O Wisdom, from on high embracing all things far and nigh.

In strength and beauty come and stay teach us your will and guide our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O people of God.

First Lesson

 Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve disregard God’s command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

They 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. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The 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. 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.” And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Carol

 “*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*” #257

5. O come, O 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 you, O Israel.

6. O come, Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I 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, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol *"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* —Jeanne Richards, Nadine Heck, Vicki Dalager and Deb Mahoney

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

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.

Carol *"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"* #301

1. Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.
2. On that holy Christmas night
through the darkness beamed a light
all the stars above were palling,
all their luster slowly failing
as the wondrous star drew nigh,
as the wondrous star drew nigh.

*Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, Music: 19th Century Danish © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

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.

Carol “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” #272

1. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow’r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
3. This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev’ry where.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev’ry load.

Text: 15th Century German carol Harriet R. Krauth, John C Matters. Music arr. Michael Praetorius. Public Domain

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

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 “Mary Did you Know?” —Rheanne Kline, piano

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

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.

Instrumental “What Child is This?” —Jennie Odello, piano

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

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.

Carol “The First Noel” #300

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep,
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Text & Music: English traditional. arr John Stainer. Public Domain

Eight Lesson Matthew 2:1-11

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby 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.

Carol “We Three Kings of Orient Are” #646 (blue hymnal)

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
west-ward leading, still proceeding
guide us to thy perfect light!
2. Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
kind forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
west-ward leading, still proceeding
guide us to thy perfect light!

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. Public Domain.

Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

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.

Message

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" #281

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Gruber. Public Domain

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World!" #267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
4. 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, and wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts; 18th Century English melody. Public Domain

Blessing

Thank you to those that purchased a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. Plants can be picked up anytime after Christmas Day. Any remaining plants will be disposed of after January 6.

*In loving memory of Art & Verna Hawkinson given by their family.
In loving memory of Alexandra Rose Curfman given by Grandma Pam.
In loving memory of our parents given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.*

*In honor of all those with Covid19 given by Cheryl Higgins.
In honor of our daughters and their families given by Ward & Carol Voorhees.*



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