



Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 1, 2023 10:00 AM

Welcome & Introduction

The Bidding Prayer

Celebrant:

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:



People:

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.

Celebrant:

The Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
and to the fellowship of the citizens above,
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

A poem: The Wind in the Orchard by Christine Woogal

Based on Genesis 3:8-15

When the wind came through the orchard
But the trees were barely swayed,
When their fruit hung bronzing in the sun
Unshrinking from the walking One,
We hunched within the shade.

He asked why we were hiding,
Though he knew that we were bare.
He asked if we had taken taste
Of knowledge from the tree he placed
And warned us to beware.

I said it was the woman
He had given, he had made.
She said it was the serpent's trick
That made the fruit seem good to pick
And that was why we ate.

Because we had ignored him,
A curse lay on the ground,
With thorns and sweat I'd harvest grain,
And she would labour with great pain,
Desiring, but kept down.

Then the wind came through the orchard,
Throwing dust across the field,
The serpent's food, our final shroud.
And yet, I glimpsed within that cloud,
A servant's striking heel.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

Carol

“All creatures of our God and King”

Hymn 400, vs. 1-3, 7

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams,

*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Great rushing winds and breezes soft,
you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,
stars nightly shining, find a voice,
Refrain

3. Swift flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,
you give to us both warmth and light,
Refrain

7. Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
Refrain

A Reading From the Book of Genesis (22:15-18)

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

“The Blessing”

Soloist

A Reading From the Book of Isaiah (6:1-11)

God reveals his glory to the prophet and calls him to be his messenger.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'
Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."
Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:
"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

A Reading From the Book of Isaiah (7:10-15)

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Carol

"Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light"

Hymn 91 – Soloist

A Reading from the Book of Luke (1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Shepherd, leave your flock and fold by Christine Woolgar

A poem based on Luke 2:1-20

Shepherd, leave your flock and fold,
Find the lamb from times of old:
Shepherd king, on David's throne,
God's anointed cornerstone.
See the child now laid on earth,
Heaven's prince and hope's new birth,
He will bring all nations peace,
And his reign will never cease.
Shepherd, hear the angels call,
Find the lamb, the Lord of all.

Cold the night and dark the skies,
God has heard your lonely sighs.
Rise, look up, and do not fear,
Now your comfort has drawn near.
See the light from Ephrathah,
Bethlehem's bright morning star,
Dawn for all who walked in shade,
Born that all might learn his ways.
Shepherd, hear the angels call,
Find the lamb, the Lord of all.

Late the hour and small the flame,
Yet for you, the Christ child came.
Do not linger at the cost,
Seek the one who seeks the lost.
He will give the weary rest,
Pastures green and waters blessed,
Wolves will hunt and harm no more,
All will worship and adore.
Shepherd, hear the angels call,
Find the lamb, the Lord of all.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

A Reading from the Book of Luke (2:21-35)

Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;
 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Carol

"Christian, awake, salute this happy morn"

Hymn 106

1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
 whereon the Savior of the world was born;
 rise to adore the mystery of love,
 which hosts of angels chanted from above;
 with them the joyful tidings first begun
 of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.
2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
 who heard the angelic herald's voice:
 "Behold, I bring good tidings of a Savior's birth
 to you and all the nations on the earth:
 this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
 this day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."
3. He spoke, and straightway the celestial choir
 in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
 the praises of redeeming love they sang,
 and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang;
 God's highest glory was their anthem still,
 peace on the earth, and unto men good will.

A Reading From the Book of Hebrews (1:1-12)

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever and ever.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?
Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

"Of the Father's love begotten"

Hymn 82

1. 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!
2. O that birth for ever 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!
3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!
4. 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!

Announcements, Prayers, & Final Blessing

Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Hymn 100 v. 1, 2 & 4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, wonders of his love.



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