



St. Michael's
Episcopal Church
COLORADO SPRINGS

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Festival of Lessons and Carols
January 3, 2021
9:00 AM

WELCOME

the Rev. Judi Sato

OPENING HYMN

sung by Amalia Dobbins

Once in Royal David's City Hymn 102

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
We shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

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:

Presider and 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.

Presider:

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.**

The First Lesson

read by Lonnie Womack

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.
Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

The Second Lesson

read by Linda Page

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22:15–18

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.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Rick Jenkins

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray,
Refrain:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
Refrain

4. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.

Refrain

The Third Lesson

read by John Gould

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Michele Nesbitt

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Hymn 81

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 blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love a right, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

The Fourth Lesson

read by Mary Hattick

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke 1: 26–35, 38

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Lily DiSilverio

Breath of Heaven

The Fifth Lesson

read by Christian Pettigrew

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2: 1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Ben, Ella, and Gavin Wandfluh

Away in a Manger Hymn 101

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.
2. 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 side until morning is nigh.

3. 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 Sixth Lesson

read by Jan McLaughlin

The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2: 8-16

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Carol

sung by MaryDee Weigel

Go Tell it on the Mountain Hymn 99

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

The Seventh Lesson

read by Rich Page

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2: 1-12

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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Laura and Lily DiSilverio

The First Nowell Hymn 109

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Refrain

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. John 1: 1-14

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Carol

sung by Susan Futey

Of the Father's Love Begotten Hymn 82

accompanied on the flute by Regina Winters

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 forever blessed,
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!

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Linda Page for organizing the musicians and readers, Amalia Dobbins and Joe Hattick for recording the scriptural and musical offerings. And thank you all who read and sang to celebrate this most Holy of seasons.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace.
Say the child of Nazareth bring you joy.
May the man of Galilee bring you strength.
May the Christ of Calvary bring you courage.
May the risen Jesus bring you hope.
May the ascended Christ bring you a foretaste of his heavenly glory.
And may the Blessing of + God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
be with you and live in you, forever and ever. **Amen +**

Closing Hymn

sung by Amalia Dobbins

Joy to the World Hymn 100

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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