

A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

December 12 and 13, 2020

5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

The tradition of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols dates from 1880. It was introduced by the Bishop of Truro, The Rt. Rev. E. W. Benson. In 1918, the service was adopted by King's College, Cambridge, where over the last century it has become justly famous. Let us sing heartily and with joy, not only at the blessed birth of our Lord, but also at His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. We encourage you to fully participate in singing the carols, listening to the Scripture, and meditating on the song texts.

Lessons
& Carols

A decorative graphic featuring a musical staff with several notes, rendered in a golden-brown color. The staff is positioned horizontally across the lower half of the page, with the notes appearing to flow from left to right. The notes are stylized and integrated into the overall calligraphic design of the text.



LESSONS & CAROLS

Pre-Service Music

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

“Toccatà on ‘Adeste Fidelis’”

David Hegarty

The Pastoral Greeting

Pastor John Larson

The Invocation and Responsorial

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Pastor The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Pastor When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,

People born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.

Pastor Restore us, O God of Hosts.

People Show us the light of Your countenance and we shall be saved.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379) ADESTE FIDELIS



O Come
Let Us
Adore Him

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:

CHORUS: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! CHORUS

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest: CHORUS

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: CHORUS

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Second Lesson: 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 from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.

Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only)

"Noel"

Tomlin/Cash/Redman

Youth Praise Team

Soloists: Kayden Erling, Carly Calhoun

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only)

"Light of the Stable"

Selah

Youth Praise Team

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his

words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Hymn "Glory to God the Angels Sing"

arr. Kessel

1. Low in a humble man-ger Lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay, Watched by the vir-gin
 2. Lit - tle the lov - ing moth - er Dreamed of its mean-ing then, How Heshould die on

6
 moth - er, There on a bed of hay, Keep - ing her lov - ing vig - il Far from the world-ly
 Cal - v'ry, Die for the sins of men Down thru the wea - ry a - ges, Out from the man-ger

12
 throngs, When thru the night__ came ring - ing Glor - ri - ous an - gel songs.
 bed Streams all the light__ of heav - en, Soon o'er the world to spread.

17
 "Glo - ry to God"__ the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;

21
 "Peace be on earth__good will to men" Hear we the an - gels sing a-gain

25
 "Glo - ry to God"__ the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;

29
 "Peace be on earth__good will to men, Good will to men, God will to men!"

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (LSB 361)



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.

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.

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only)

"Come and Worship"

Bebo Norman/Jason Ingram
The Agape Praise Team

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only) "It's Christmas Medley" Chris Tomlin
The Agape Praise Team

A Christmas Song (Saturday Only) "Mary, Did You Know?" Rufus/Alan
Soloist: Michael Zehnder

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born



...you will find a babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger.
Luke 2:12, NRSV

king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " `But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the

star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!



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!

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Offering *Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex*

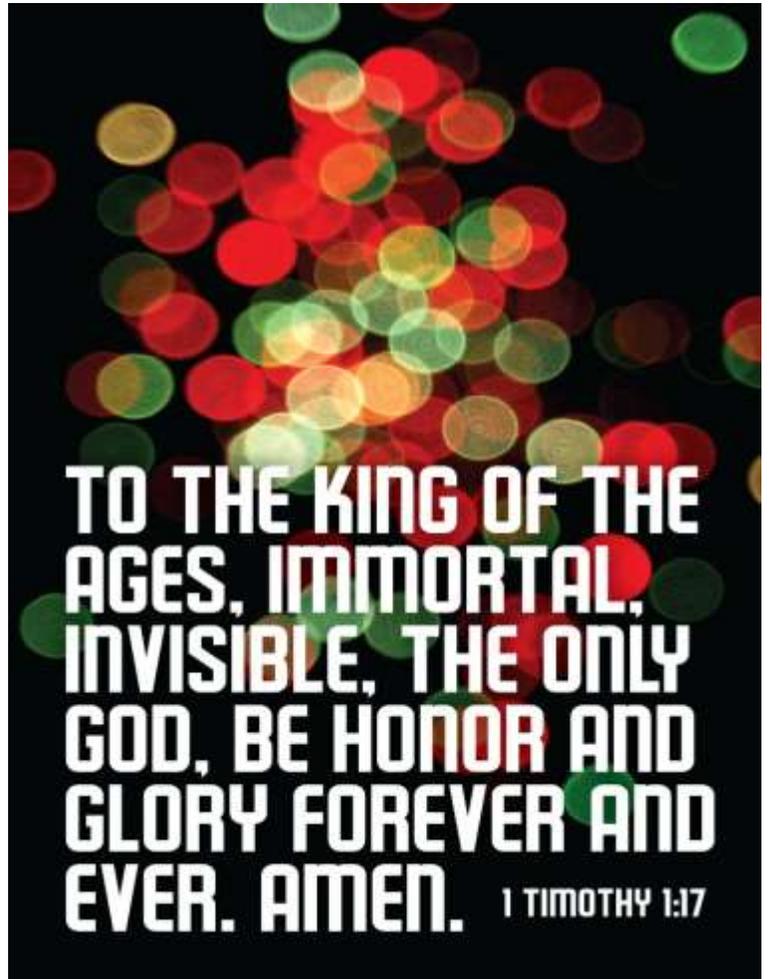
The Prayer of the Church

Pastor With longing for the coming of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs. For the whole Christian Church that we might bear fruits worthy of Repentance. - For leaders of the world, that they would turn their hearts to You and work for peace among all people. - For the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, and those who lack the basic necessities of life, that our sharing may bring them joy. - For those who are hospitalized or ill (*especially...*), that they might cast all their cares upon You. - With thanksgiving we remember all the faithful departed who have died and rest securely in Your arms. God of joy, hear the prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day is drawing near.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever and ever. Amen.



The Benediction

Pastor May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing. May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life. And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (Sunday Only)

“For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Handel/Baloché
Youth Praise Team
The Agape Praise Team
Congregation

**For unto us a child is born A Son is given a Son is given
For unto us a child is born A Son is given a Son is given
The Messiah oh to see Him**

**To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy**

**For unto us a child is born A Son is given a Son is given
For unto us a child is born A Son is given a Son is given
The Messiah oh to see Him**

**To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy**

**You are high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy
Holy holy holy holy holy holy Holy holy holy holy holy holy**

For unto us a child is born Holy holy holy X3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Saturday Only)

Mendelssohn



**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts 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 a virgin’s womb.**

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us 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 we no more may die,

Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

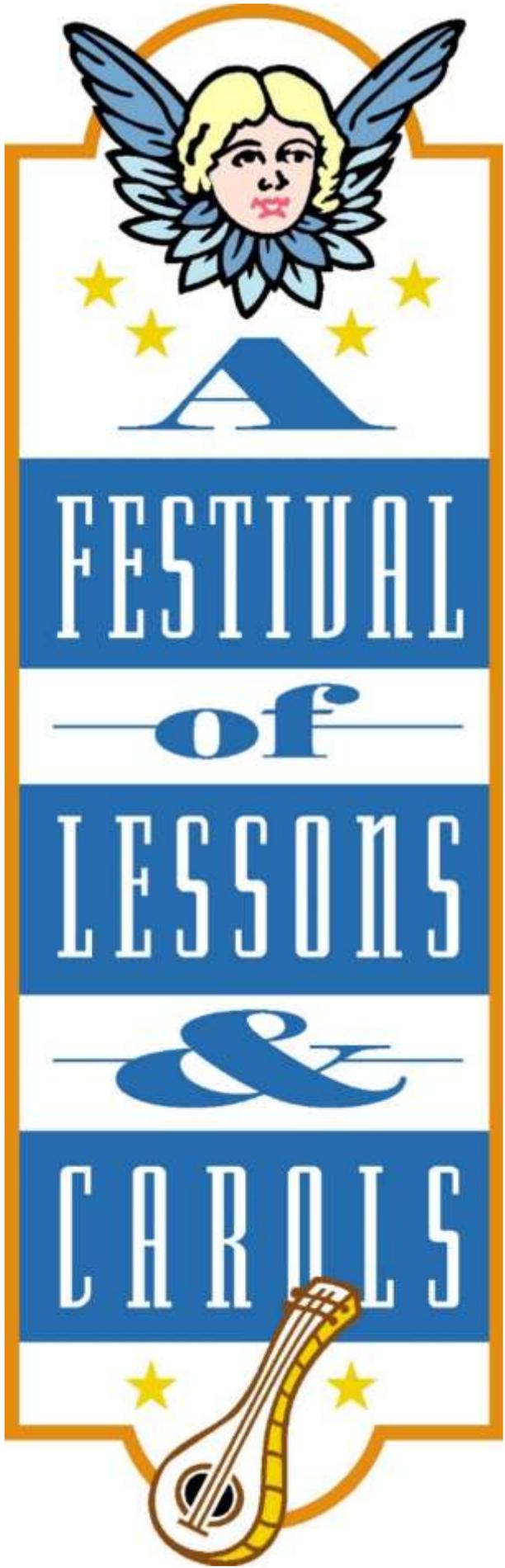
Congregational Concerns

Pastor Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Postlude “Break Forth Into Joy”

J.S. Bach



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT

The Reverend John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Michael Zehnder

The Ministry of Music

THE AGAPE PRAISE TEAM

Brianna Fort, Rose Kahler, Christa Kirschner, Jenna Lawrenz, Lisa O'Neal, Ken Price,
Bob Shiflet (Drums)

YOUTH PRAISE TEAM

Carly Calhoun, Nevaeh Cooper, Kayden Erling, Jenna Harvey-Kabelman,
Ben Williams, Anna Wishon
Bob Shiflet (Drums)

