

# A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 27, 2020

10:00 am



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
1206 Maple Lane  
Anchorage, Kentucky 40223

❖ **Prelude** “Joseph and bien Marie” Dandrieu

❖ **Processional Hymn** “Once in royal David’s city”

*Solo* 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.

*Choir* 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 Saviour 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.

Words, C. F. Alexander, Melody, H. J. Gauntlett

❖ **The Bidding (priest)**

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us pray to Him for the needs of the whole world, and all His people; for peace upon the earth He came to save; for love and unity within the one Church He did build; for brotherhood and goodwill amongst all men.

Let us remember before Him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and those that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:



A Hymn

“Of the Father’s love begotten”

Hymn 82

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877). alt.  
 Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick.  
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The Third Lesson Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah*

❖ A Carol

“The Blessed Son of God”

R. Vaughn Williams

The blessed son of God only  
 In a crib full poor did lie:  
 With our poor flesh and our poor blood  
 Was clothed that everlasting good.  
 Kyrie eleison

All this did he for us freely,  
 For to declare his great mercy;  
 All Christendom be merry therefore,  
 And give him thanks for evermore,  
 Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,  
 Was a guest and a stranger here;  
 Us for to bring from misery,  
 That we might live eternally. Kyrie eleison.

## ❖ The Fourth Lesson

## Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

## ❖ A Hymn

“Lo, how a rose e’er blooming”

Hymn 81

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung,  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

## ❖ The Fifth Lesson

## Luke 1: 26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

## ❖ A Carol

## “I sing of a maiden”

Patrick Hadley

I sing of a maiden, that is makeless,  
 King of all kings to her son she ches.  
 He came all so still where his mother was,  
 As dew in April that falleth on the grass.  
 He came all so still to this mother's bower,  
 As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came also still where his mother lay,  
 As dew in April that falleth on the spray.  
 Mother and maiden was never none but she:  
 Well may such a lady God's mother be.

*Text: traditional English*

## ❖ A Hymn

## “The angel Gabriel from heaven came”

Hymn 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 “For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

“All hail,” said he, “thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 “my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name.”  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!

**The Sixth Lesson**

**St. Matthew I**

*St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

❖ **Carols**

“Ceremony of Carols”  
“That Yonge childe”

Benjamin Britten

That Yonge child when it gan weep  
With song she lulled him asleep:  
That was so sweet a melody  
It passed alle minstrelsy.

The nightingale sang also:  
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:  
Whoso attendeth to her song,  
And leaveth the first, then doth he wrong.

*Text: Anonymous, 14<sup>th</sup> century*

Lydia Lewis, soprano

“Balulalow”

O my dear hert, young Jesu sweit,  
Prepare thy creddil to my spreit,  
And I sall rock thee to my hert,  
And never mair from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee evermore  
With sanges sweit unto thy gloir:  
The knees of my hert sall I bow,  
And sing that richt Balulalow!

*Text: James, John and Robert Wedderburn (1548, 1562)*

❖ **The Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds go the manger.*

❖ **A Carol**

“Manger Carol”

Leo Sowerby

Here betwixt ass and oxen mild,  
Sleep, sleep my little child.  
Angels from on high hover in the sky,  
Keeping watch above the incarnate  
God of love.

Here betwixt rose and lily white,  
Sleep, sleep my son tonight.  
Angels from on high, hover in the sky,  
Keeping watch above the incarnate  
God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms,  
Sleep, sleep in your mother’s arms.  
Angels from on high hover in the sky,  
Keeping watch above the incarnate  
God of love.

On this far night of holy joy,  
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy  
Angels from on high hover in the sky  
Keeping watch above the incarnate  
God of love. Amen.

*Text: French, 13<sup>th</sup> century, translated Winfred Douglas*

❖ **The Eighth Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

❖ **The Carol**

“How far is it to Bethlehem?”

arr. David Willcocks

How far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.  
Shall we find the stable room  
Lit by a star.

Can we see the little child,  
Is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch  
May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,  
Ox, ass, or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch his tiny hand will he awake?  
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?

Great kings have precious gifts  
And we have naught,  
Little smiles and little tears  
Are all we brought.

For all weary children  
Mary must weep,  
Here on his bed of straw,  
Sleep, children, sleep/.

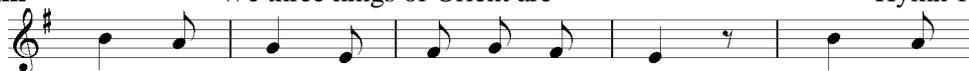
God in his mother's arms  
Babes in the byre,  
Sleep, as they sleep who find  
Their heart's desire.

*Text: Francis Chesteron*

## ❖ A Hymn

## “We three kings of Orient are”

Hymn 128



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*Refrain*

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

*The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.*

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)



## ❖ A Hymn

## “The first Nowell”

Hymn 109 (vs. 1-2, 6)

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

*Alternative Refrain*  
*Descant (others unison)*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,  
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

❖ **Closing Voluntary**  
 “In dulci jubilo”

J. S. Bach