

Lessons and Christmas Carols
Sunday, December 27, 2020 - 1 Christmas

<https://vimeo.com/493413659>

Prelude - St. Paul's Choir: *Morning Star*

by Arvo Part (b. 1935)

DIALOGUE

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness – a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

C Amen.

First Reading - *The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² 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. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

First Carol – St. Paul's Choir: *For Unto Us A Child Is Born* from *Messiah*, by *G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

Second Reading - *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The 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.

³His 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; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁶The 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. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They 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.

Second Carol - St. Paul's Choir: *Of A Rose, A Lovely Rose*

by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Third Reading - *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁸Then 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.

Third Carol – Lydia Greene, soprano: *Maria Wiegenlied*

by Max Reger (1873-1916)

Fourth Reading - *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Fourth Carol – St. Paul's Choir: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

arr. Nicholas Palmer (b. 1963)

Fifth Reading - *The shepherds go to the manger*

Luke 2:8-16

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Fifth Carol – Lydia Greene, soprano: *He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd*

from *Messiah*, by G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Sixth Reading - 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, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sixth Carol – St. Paul’s Choir: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

Seventh Reading - 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. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

Seventh Carol – *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

by Jacqueline Nappi

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

L In his light, draw all to the manger

C to gather in wonder with the shepherds

L In his light, draw all to the manger

C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

L In his light, draw all to the manger

C to sing for joy with the angels.

L In the brightness of his life

C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

L It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

L 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.**

Voluntary - St. Paul's Choir: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

setting by Carol Schalk (b 1929)

BLESSING

L Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
C **Praise God, all creatures here below!**
L You are the shepherds telling the story.
C **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**
L You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
C **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**
L You are the angels announcing peace.
C **We live with joy and go now in peace.**
L Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Postlude - St. Paul's Choir: *And the Glory of the Lord, from Messiah*

by G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Worship Leadership

Ministers	Pastor Scott Anderson, Vicar Judy Goans Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Readers	Dick Clendaniel, Linda Foreman, Joan Albright, Judy Schlegel, Michelle Meadors, Rod Runestad, Vicar Judy Goans
Musicians	String Quartet Musicians: Elizabeth Phelps, Violin; Natalie Kress, violin; Suzanne Rousso, viola; Oliver Weston, cello; Soloist: Lydia Greene, soprano
St. Paul's Virtual Choir:	Lydia Greene, Joan Albright, Wendy Waugh, Tina Bessias, Rachel Harter, Susan Beschorner, Rod Runestad, Jim Shoaf, George Seiz, Lewis Moore

Maria Wiegenlied (The Virgin's Lullaby) translation

Mary sits by the rose bower
And rocks her little Jesus,
Softly through the leaves
The warm wind of summer blows.

A brightly coloured bird
Sings at her feet:
Go to sleep, sweet child,
It's time to go to sleep!

Your smile is lovely,
Your happy sleep lovelier still,
Lay your tired little head
Against your mother's breast!
Go to sleep, sweet child,
It's time to go to sleep!

Announcements

Worship on Sunday, January 3, 2021 – 2 Christmas – Setting four

There will not be in-person worship on January 3, 2021. The service is on our Vimeo site. Here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/493124626> You may also check the St. Paul's website (stpaulsdurham.org) to get to the main Vimeo site. **Pastor Scott will be available from 11:15 am - 12:00 noon for Drive-through Holy Communion January 3, 2021.**

The church offices will be closed December 25 through January 3. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

Articles and information for the January Cross Connections will be due on Monday, January 4 to Susan Esposito (admin@stpaulsdurham.org). "Holy Folders" will meet on Friday, January 8 at 11:00 am to assemble the issue for the post office.

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. We will not be Zooming on Dec 28 but will be back on Jan 4, 2021. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: Bible Study - Daniel – Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays. We will be off on December 24 and 31 and will pick back up after the holidays on January 7, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGhUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621 – Password: 402561

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