



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023, 10:30 p.m.
Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

***Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary loving mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.***

***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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.***

***And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.***

ANTHEM

*And the Glory of the Lord
from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

ANTHEM

*For Unto Us a Child is Born
from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

***Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!***

***Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.***

ANTHEM

Nowel!
from *The Nativity According to St. Luke*

R. Thompson

ANTHEM

The First Noel

D. Forrest

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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]

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

ANTHEM

Behold the Star!

W. Dawson

Behold the star up yonder! Behold the star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

There was no room found in the inn, for Him who was born free from sin. [Refrain]

The wise men came from the East, to worship Him the Prince of Peace. [Refrain]

A song broke forth upon the night. It is the star of Bethlehem, peace on earth, good will to all.
Alleluia, behold the star!

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:***

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]***

***Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]***

ANTHEM

Gloria!

C. Courtney
Voices in Accord

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the highest!

Service of Lessons and Carols

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. M. Bedford

WELCOME

Brandon Wallace

*PASSING THE PEACE

**Standing as you are comfortable and able.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Light shone from above

People: to us the word of faith,

Leader: and announced to us the song of the angels.

People: Glory in the highest to God our Savior. Hallelujah.

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,*

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,

lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created; [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Williams Family

Choral Introduction

Leader: Tonight, we proclaim the good news and the great joy of Jesus' birth.

People: Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Leader: The promised Messiah is revealed!

People: Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Leader: The light of Christ shines!

People: Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Leader: The Savior of the nations reigns!

People: Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain

We pro-claim with hope _____ for the mor - ning Light, for the love of

6 Christ to il - lu - mi - nate the night. We pro-claim with joy _____

11 _____ for the Sa - vior's birth. We pro-claim with hope for peace on earth.

3

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Amy Sell

Leader: The visions of the prophet find their fullest expression in the birth of the Christ child, who came to lead us in bearing witness to God's hope. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate our hearts with this Good News. Let us pray:

**People: Tonight, Holy God,
we make room in our hearts and minds
for your Son our Savior Jesus.
Let your Word be born in us anew so that,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
the light of Christ may shine in us and through us. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Dick Tiller-Luchtman

The prophet announces the birth of a ruler to a people in darkness.

ANTHEM

Let There be Light

C. Courtney
Voices in Accord

And God said: "Let there be light in the darkness shining. Let there be light" and the light was good.
Sun, moon, and stars out of the darkness shining. And the light was good.
There came a star out of Jacob rising. There rose a scepter out of Israel.
And the star was Jesus, Emmanuel!
And the morning stars sang, they sang together. And the angels shouted, they shouted for joy.
And the morning stars sang, oh yes, they sang together and the song was good.
"Let there be light out of the darkness shining." And the light was good.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Sarah Galloway

The angel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son.

ANTHEM

Unexpected and Mysterious

C. Hampton

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace. Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace. If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known, God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.
Of a momentary meeting of eternity and time, Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine. Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy, and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.
We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing, to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

Orson Mason

The prophet declares the birth of the child as the sign of hope.

CAROL

What Child Is This?

***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?***

***Refrain: 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 Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]***

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]***

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25
The annunciation to Joseph.

Mike Achacoso

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

vv. 1 and 4

***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.***

***O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Sunil Kotian

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Lux Aurumque

E. Whitacre

Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum et canunt angeli molliter modo natum.
Light, warm and heavy as pure gold and the angels sing softly to the newborn baby.

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9
The prophet's vision of the stump of Jesse and the peaceable kingdom.

Amber Denney

ANTHEM

Dream Isaiah Saw

G. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will feed in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will darken the Earth that God made.
Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Life redeemed from fang and claw.
Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the Violence concealed
deep in the heart of systems gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little Child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Justice purifying law.
Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent,
all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.
Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: Knowledge, wisdom, worship awe.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Amy Sell

The shepherds and angels celebrate the good news of the Christ Child.

ANTHEM

Festival Gloria

C. Courtney

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus, voluntatis.
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those of goodwill.

HOMILY

Strange Glory

Darren Cushman Wood

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

SILENT NIGHT

*(Please remain seated for Silent Night. The Choir will sing the first verse in German.
The congregation and choir will then sing in English.)*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht. Alles schläft; einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

***Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!***

*PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**People: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

People: From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

***JOY TO THE WORLD**

*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.*

*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.*

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. D. Willcocks

Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Join Us in the New Year

Study Together:

"On Purpose: Finding
God's Voice in Your
Passion" Book Study
Wednesdays,
Jan. 10-31
6-7:30 p.m.

Serve Together:

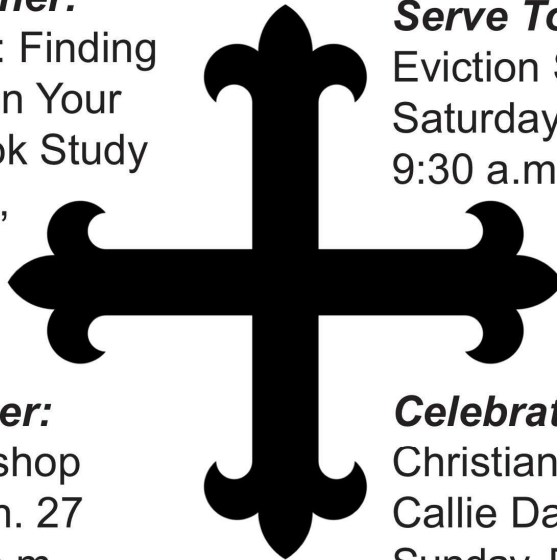
Eviction Sealing Event
Saturday, Feb. 10
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Pray Together:

Prayer Workshop
Saturday, Jan. 27
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Celebrate Together:

Christian Singer
Callie Day
Sunday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.



Upcoming Events

January 5, Epiphany Party, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 19, Happy Feet Winter Movie Night, 5:30-8 p.m.

February 2, Indiana Pacers v. Sacramento Kings, 7:30 p.m.,
purchase tickets by December 31

Scan to make your 2024 pledge:



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