



carols *by* candlelight

A Festival Service Of Lessons & Carols

December 12, 2021 • St. Mark's Lutheran Church • Roanoke, VA

The image on the front cover is a detail of the Nativity Window at St. Mark's.

PRELUDE

Variations on VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Walter Pelz

I. Theme

II. *To you this night ...*

III. *The blessing that the Father planned ...*

IV. *My heart for very joy now leaps ...*

V. *Were earth a thousand times as fair ...*

VI. Finale

Jacob Gordon, organist

WELCOME

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. True God of true God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born for our sal - va - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo! he shuns not the vir - gin's womb,
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry given;



Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Son of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, during this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, and again this year, those whose physical, mental, or economic well-being have been impacted by the pandemic, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**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 Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**

CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Brett Roden, baritone
Mitchell R. Weisiger, organist

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

- Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

REFLECTION

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Evan Odson, tenor
Mitchell R. Weisiger, organist

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- text from *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum* Köln, 1710,
tr. composite

LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6, 19

The prophet in exile foresees the coming glory of the Lord.

Andy Jones, lector

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

CAROL

The Shepherds Sing
from Carols by Candlelight 2019

arr. Bob Chilcott

The shepherds sing: and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds,
of thoughts, and words and deeds.

The pasture is thy word: the streams, thy grace
enriching all the place.
Shepherds and flocks shall sing, and all my powers
outsing the daylight hours

Then we will sing, and shine on our own day,
and one another pay.
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,
till even his beams sing, and my music shine.

- George Herbert (1593-1633)

Brandon Mock, saxophone; Sarah Kress, soprano; Josh O'Dell, conductor

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
Andy Jones, lector

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

CAROL

O Holy Night

Brett Roden, baritone

Mitchell R. Weisiger, organist

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

- John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)

LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to worship the Christ Child.

Andy Jones, lector

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Brynn Scozzari, soprano

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

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.

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;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

- Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

REFLECTION

CAROL

Star Carol

John Rutter

from Carols by Candlelight 2019

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
*See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"
See his star ...

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.
See his star ...

Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
See his star ...

Josh O'Dell, conductor

LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Andy Jones, lector

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. ¹When 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.

CAROL

The First Noel

Evan Odson, tenor

Mitchell R. Weisiger, organist

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.

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.

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.

This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- English traditional text

MEDITATION

CAROL

Still, Still, Still

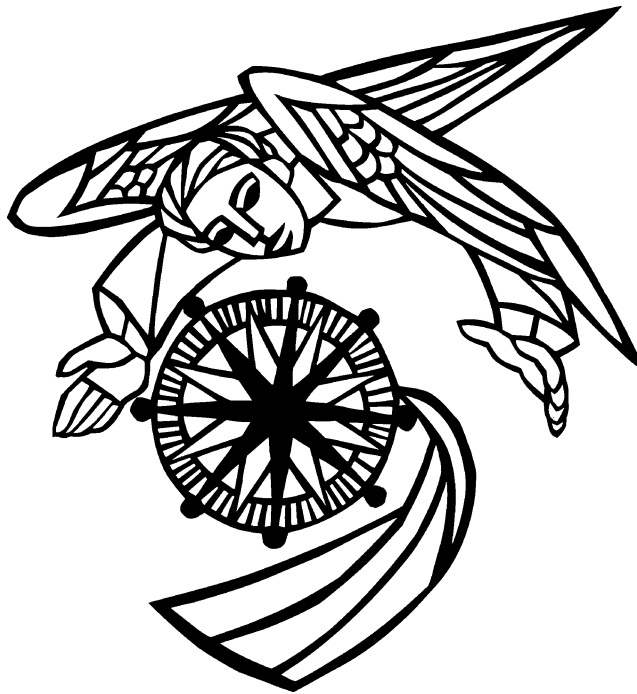
Brynn Scozzari, soprano
Mitchell R. Weisiger, organist

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,
sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

- Austrian carol, tr. George K. Evans

REFLECTION



HYMN

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace. Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

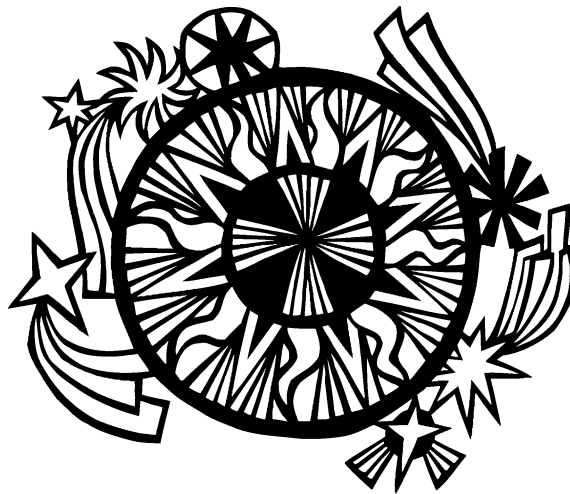
BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take on our nature,
bless you this day, scatter the darkness of sin,
and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the
Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth
and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen**



HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

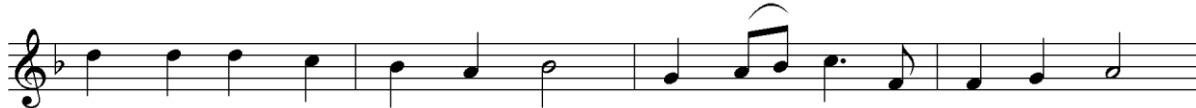
1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo
 Jacob Gordon, organist

J. S. Bach

*The Pastor, Staff, and Congregation of St. Mark's
 wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Special thanks:

Mitchell R. Weisiger, Director of Music Ministries & Organist at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA, for accompanying our soloists.

Andy Jones, Vicar at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, Trenton, NJ, for serving as lector.

O Come, All Ye Faithful – text attr. to John Francis Wade, tr. Composite; music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. to John Francis Wade. Introduction and Stanzas 3 and 4 arranged by David Willcocks.

Silent Night – text by Joseph Mohr, tr. by John F. Young; music: STILLE NACHT, by Franz Gruber.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – text by Charles Wesley; music: MENDELSSOHN, by Felix Mendelssohn. Introduction and Stanza 3 arranged by David Willcocks.

The **Bidding Prayer** was adapted from two sources: the traditional prayer used at King's College, Cambridge, and a modern version from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, © 2006, *The Archbishops' Council*.

The **Concluding Prayer** is the traditional Collect for Christmas Eve from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

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