



carols *by* candlelight

A Festival Service Of Lessons & Carols

December 20, 2020 • 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

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 especially 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

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

arr. Stan Pethel

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. May we stroke the creatures there, oxen and sheep?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
Can we see the little child, is He within? If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in? Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

Great kings may have precious gifts, and we have naught;
little smiles and little tears are all we've brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep,
Here on His bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.

- Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)

REFLECTION

CAROL

Comfort Ye and Every Valley
from *Messiah*
Evan Odson, tenor

George Frideric Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him the crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low:
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

- Isaiah 40:1-4

LESSON

Micah 5:2-4a
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.
Andy Jones, lector

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

REFLECTION

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Dan Forrest

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 wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
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;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

- Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Brandon Mock, saxophone

LESSON

Luke 1:26-36

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary.
Jennifer Armentrout, lector

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rai - ses me,
2. The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,



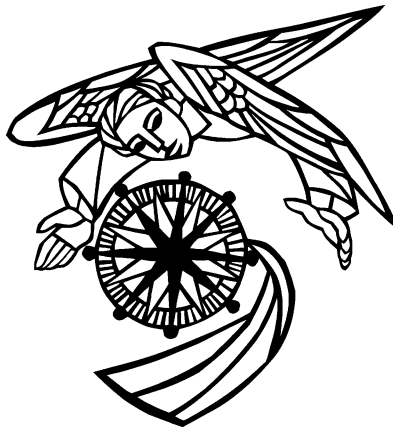
who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
for God has come in pow'r to save, to set all peo - ple free.



The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - b'ring those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,



to those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev' - ry time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.



REFLECTION

CAROL

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Brynn Scozzari, soprano, and Sarah Kress, alto

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

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

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

- Frederick Martens (1874-1932)

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Karen Arthur, 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

What Child Is This?

arr. Richard Purvis

Jacob Gordon, organ

LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to worship the Christ Child.

Jean Weber, 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

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Mack Wilberg

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"* by priest and people sungen!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

* - "io" is a Latin interjection expressing joy, like English "hooray".

- G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

MEDITATION

CAROL

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Brett Roden, baritone

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour'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.

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.

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.

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

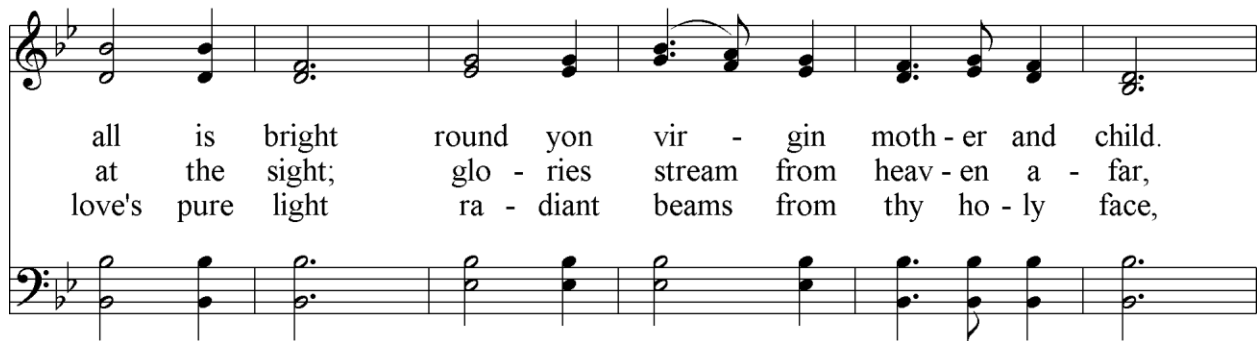
- John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)

REFLECTION


HYMN

Silent Night

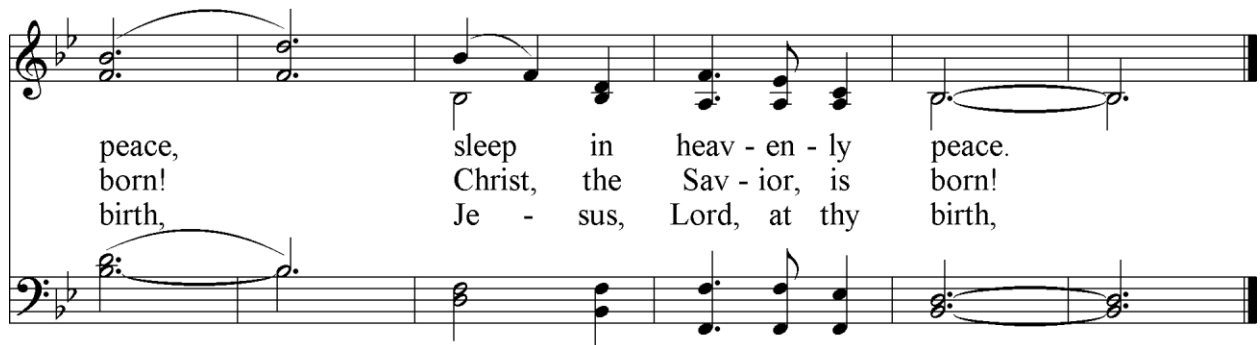

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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 PRAYERS

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**

Almighty and gracious God, in the birth of your Son, you made your home among us. When we long for home and normalcy, remind us that you are with us, always calling us to our true home in you. Enlighten the darkness of chaos that surrounds us, and comfort our hearts with your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

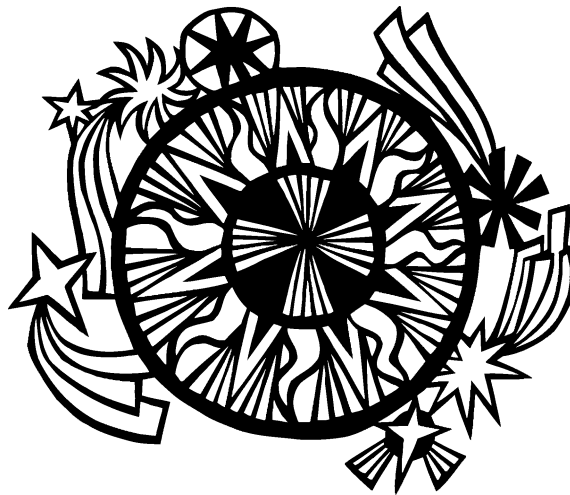
BLESSING

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

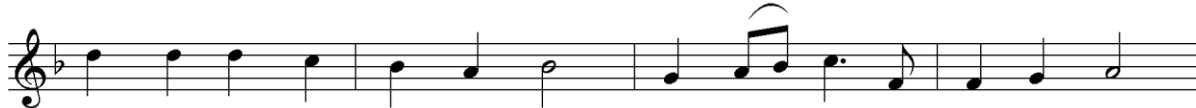
1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



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, organ

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!*

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.

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise – text by Ruth Duck; music: MARIAS LOVSÅNG, Swedish folk melody. Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-729546. All rights reserved.

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 first **Concluding Prayer** is the traditional Collect for Christmas Eve from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. The second was written specifically for this service.

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