

Second Sunday of Christmas | Lessons + Carols | January 3rd, 2021

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Prelude | *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Welcome + Opening Dialogue

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

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

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

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

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath (*Allie + P.A.*)

During the first week of Advent we lit the candle of hope as dared to express our longing for peace, for healing, and for the well-being of all creation. **light candle**

During the second week of Advent we lit the candle of peace, knowing full well that peace is often elusive. Yet we trust that God is never absent from us and is always preparing something new. **light candle**

During the third week of Advent we lit the candle of joy and recognized that joy in all around us. **light candle**

During the fourth week of Advent we lit the candle of love, knowing that there is no greater power than love. **light candle**

And on Christmas, we lit the fifth candle, the Christ candle, as we celebrated the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. **light candle**

Let us pray: Almighty God, your Son is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as the body of Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Amen.

Opening Hymn | 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: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God... in... the... highest: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be... glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Children's Message (P.A.)

First Lesson | Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.

The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances,
nor decide by hearsay.

He will judge the needy with righteousness,
and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze.

Their young will lie down together,
and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.
They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.
The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord,
just as the water covers the sea.

Carol | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*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 Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
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.*

Second Lesson | Luke 2:1-7

Reader 1: 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.

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 3: 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 | *Away in a Manger*

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,

*but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

Third Lesson | Luke 2:8-16

Narr: Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said,

Angel: "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

Narr: Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said,

Angel: "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Narr: When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other,

Shep: "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us."

Narr: They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Carol | The First Noel

*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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

*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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

Fourth Lesson | 1 John 1:7-11 (P.A.)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Carol | Love Has Come

*Love has come -- a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

Christmas Creed (Allie - done)

We believe in God, whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.

We believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

We believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.

We believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

This we surely believe!

Prayer of the Day (*Allie*)

Loving God, **help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (*Allie*)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

Final Blessing (P.A.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn | *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude | *Go Tell It on the Mountain*