

CHRIST THE KING

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023 4 PM LESSONS & CAROLS

Prelude

We have never encountered love, hope, peace, and joy as they really are. Even in our best moments and relationships, we can find only dim reflections of what God offers in His perfect character. — David Damico

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

*Deliver us when we draw near to You,
from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind:
Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections,
we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen*

Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

Congregation: for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Leader: And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Congregation: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

Leader: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

Congregation: my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

Leader: my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

All: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
— from Luke 1:46-50, Psalm 18:1-3

Invocation

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Words: Liturgy of St. James,
adapted by Gerald Moultrie;
Music: French Melody, arr. by Ralph V. Williams

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

5
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

10
for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to earth de -
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the
from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of hell may
as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

15
scend - - - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
faith - - - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - - - ish as the dark - ness clears a way.
lu - - - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Und die Schlange war listiger denn alle Tiere auf dem Felde, die Gott der HERR gemacht hatte, und sprach zu dem Weibe: Ja, sollte Gott gesagt haben: Ihr sollt nicht essen von den Früchten der Bäume im Garten? Da sprach das Weib zu der Schlange: Wir essen von den Früchten der Bäume im Garten; aber von den Früchten des Baumes mitten im Garten hat Gott gesagt: Eßt nicht davon, rührt's auch nicht an, daß ihr nicht sterbt. Da sprach die Schlange zum Weibe: Ihr werdet mitnichten des Todes sterben; sondern Gott weiß, daß, welches Tages ihr davon eßt, so werden eure Augen aufgetan, und werdet sein wie Gott und wissen, was gut und böse ist. Und das Weib schaute an, daß von dem Baum gut zu essen wäre und daß er lieblich anzusehen und ein lustiger Baum wäre, weil er klug machte; und sie nahm von der Frucht und aß und gab ihrem Mann auch davon, und er aß.

Da wurden ihrer beiden Augen aufgetan, und sie wurden gewahr, daß sie nackt waren, und flochten Feigenblätter zusammen und machten sich Schürze. Und sie hörten die Stimme Gottes des HERRN, der im Garten ging, da der Tag kühl geworden war. Und Adam versteckte sich mit seinem Weibe vor dem Angesicht Gottes des HERRN unter die Bäume im Garten. Und Gott der HERR rief Adam und sprach zu ihm: Wo bist du? Und er sprach: Ich hörte deine Stimme im Garten und fürchtete mich; denn ich bin nackt, darum versteckte ich mich. Und er sprach: Wer hat dir's gesagt, daß du nackt bist? Hast du nicht gegessen von dem Baum, davon ich dir gebot, du solltest nicht davon essen?

Da sprach Adam: Das Weib, das du mir zugesellt hast, gab mir von dem Baum, und ich aß. Da sprach Gott der HERR zum Weibe: Warum hast du das getan? Das Weib sprach: Die Schlange betrog mich also, daß ich aß. Da sprach Gott der HERR zu der Schlange: Weil du solches getan hast, seist du verflucht vor allem Vieh und vor allen Tieren auf dem Felde. Auf deinem Bauche sollst du gehen und Erde essen dein Leben lang. Und ich will Feindschaft setzen zwischen dir und dem Weibe und zwischen deinem Samen und ihrem Samen. Derselbe soll dir den Kopf zertreten, und du wirst ihn in die Ferse stechen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale;
Music: 13th Century Plainsong, arr. by Thomas Helmore

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of hosts, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's
4. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine
5. O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our

6
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law in
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and

11
til the Son of God ap - pear.
cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
close the path to mis - er - y.

17
el shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el.

Please be seated.

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley and Mark Hunt;
Music: Rowland H. Prichard

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high, ap - pear,
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

9
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

17
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a lone;

25
dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Please be seated.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

A los seis meses, Dios envió al ángel Gabriel a Nazaret, pueblo de Galilea, a visitar a una joven virgen comprometida para casarse con un hombre que se llamaba José, descendiente de David. La virgen se llamaba María. El ángel se acercó a ella y le dijo: —¡Te saludo, tú que has recibido el favor de Dios! El Señor está contigo.

Ante estas palabras, María se perturbó y se preguntaba qué podría significar este saludo.

—No tengas miedo, María; Dios te ha concedido su favor —le dijo el ángel—. Quedarás embarazada y darás a luz un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Jesús. Él será un gran hombre y lo llamarán Hijo del Altísimo. Dios el Señor le dará el trono de su padre David y reinará sobre el pueblo de Jacob para siempre. Su reinado no tendrá fin.

—¿Cómo podrá suceder esto —preguntó María al ángel—, puesto que soy virgen?
Y el ángel dijo:

—El Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ti y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra. Así que al santo niño que va a nacer lo llamarán Hijo de Dios. También tu parienta Elisabet va a tener un hijo en su vejez; de hecho, la que decían que era estéril ya está en el sexto mes de embarazo. Porque para Dios no hay nada imposible.

—Aquí tienes a la sierva del Señor —contestó María—. Que él haga conmigo como me has dicho.
Con esto, el ángel la dejó.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks;
Music: Lewis H. Redner

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a -
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove, while
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n! So
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast

6

bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by; yet
mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love. O
God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. No
out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day. We

10

in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the
morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth! And
ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, where
hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; O

14

hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

在那些日子，凱撒奧古斯都降旨，叫全國人民都登記戶籍。這第一次登記戶籍是在居里扭作敘利亞總督的時候行的。眾人各歸各城，辦理登記。約瑟也從加利利的拿撒勒城上猶太去，到了大衛的城名叫伯利恆，因為他是大衛家族的人，要和他所聘之妻馬利亞一同登記戶籍。那時馬利亞已經懷孕。他們在那裏的時候，馬利亞的產期到了，就生了頭胎的兒子，用布包起來，放在馬槽裏，因為客店裏沒有地方。

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: Latin hymn, attr. to John F. Wade,
trans. by Frederick Oakeley; Music: John Francis Wade

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

6
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the

11
hold him born the King of an - gels;
God, all glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O
Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

16

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

Please stand.

Luke 2:8-21

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

5

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

9

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

15

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, page 808 in pew Bible

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distributing of Elements

We ask that those in the balcony come forward first, followed by those on the main floor, starting in the back row.

Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free wafers are in the center of each bread tray for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.

At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements

Communion Servers:

Suzanne Bauer, Nathan Carter, Ambrose Huang, Chelsey Huffman

Silent Night

Words: Joseph Mohr;
Music: Franz Gruber

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight!
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light

5
round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing - al - le lu - ia,
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

9
sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please be seated.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The First Noel

Words and Music: Traditional English Carol

1.The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2.They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
3.And by the light of that same star three
4.This star drew nigh to the north west, o'er
5.Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in the east, be - yond them far; and to the
Wise Men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and there it
rev - erent - ly up - on the knee, and of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that
earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both
king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher -
did both stop and stay, right o - ver the place where
there, in his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and

was so deep.
day and night.
ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
Je - sus lay.
frank - in - cense.

born is the King of Is - - - ra - el.

Joy to the World

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: George Frederick Handel

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room and
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
 ground; he comes and make of his his bless - ings flow far
 prove the glo - ries his his righ - teous - ness and

12
 heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 as the curse is found, far and as the curse is found, far
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and

16
 heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far - as the curse is found.
 won - ders, ders of his love.

Benediction