

Advent Lessons and Carols

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray. Jesus, you are love even if we are afraid. Help us to pray to you when we are scared or fearful. Bring love into our hearts we pray. **Amen.** *All four Advent candles are lighted.*

Opening Carol: *Once in royal David's city* (verse 1 solo; verse 2 all)
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 and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

The Bidding Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson: *God creates human beings to live in obedience in the Garden of Eden* (Genesis 2:4b-9,15-25)

Carol: *Creator of the stars of night*

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

Second Lesson: *Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden* (Genesis 3:1-15)

Carol: *My Lord, what a morning*

My Lord, what a morning, my Lord, what a morning,
O my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You'll hear the trumpet sounding . . . They'll wake the nations underground . . .

Third Lesson: *A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts* (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Carol: *Of the Father's love begotten*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

Fourth Lesson: *The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us* (Isaiah 35:1-10)

Carol: *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Comfort, comfort, ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them.
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
Calling us to new repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Fifth Lesson: *The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand* (Baruch 4:36-5:9)

Carol: *People look East*

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Sixth Lesson: *The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem* (Micah 5:2-4)

Carol: *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Seventh Lesson: *The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One* (Isaiah 11:1-9)

Carol: *Let there be peace on earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, we're a family,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me

Eighth Lesson: *God promises a new heaven and a new earth* (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Carol: *Isaiah the prophet has written of old*

Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace,
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth, when no one shall hurt or destroy,
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land and your people shall go forth in joy.

Ninth Lesson: *The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of God* (Luke 1:26-45)

Carol: *Holy is your name*

(Refrain) And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen, and holy is your name.

The Collect of the Day and the Blessing of Advent