

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**CHRISTMAS EVE
FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS**
December 24, 2020
Services at 6 pm and 7:30 pm



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE, which celebrates the great feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The liturgy of Lessons and Carols was first used in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve, 1918, with the candle-lit splendor of the chapel, the prayers and scripture readings, the great hymns and the soaring music of the choir and organ standing in eloquent contrast to the darkness of a cold winter night and the tragic shadows of the recently concluded Great War. Tonight's service is offered in the spirit of that first service at King's, as a light shining in the darkness; with prayers for peace, goodwill and understanding among all people rising amidst the singing of hymns and carols.

The end of the service will feature singing "Silent Night" with candlelight. To avoid spilling wax, please hold your candle upright when lit. The unlit candle should tilt toward the lit candle when sharing the flame.

Worship is offered every Sunday at 9 am. Visitors are always welcome to join us.

WORSHIP NOTES

- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other devices.
- Bold wording is to be said by the congregation.
- All Bible readings are from the New Revised Standard Version.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Brass Plus

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Jason Talsness

Please stand.

CAROL

Follows on the next page

*O Come All Ye Faithful
v. 1,2,4.*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, 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 this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

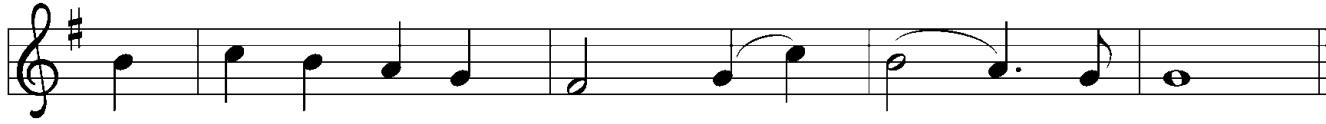


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Glory to God in the highest.

And peace on earth and good will to all.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

Arise, shine for your light is come.

And the glory of the lord has risen upon you.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders.

**And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 11: 1-9

From King David's line, a ruler will bring justice and peace.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL

Follows on the next page.

The First Noel

V. 1-3



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 near 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 - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



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

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

THE SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

² 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

CAROL

Follows on the next page

O Little Town of Bethlehem

v. 1,3,4.



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



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE THIRD READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night
Reid Breck, Soloist

Adam

THE FOURTH READING: Isaiah 40: 1-5

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

CAROL

Follows on the next page.

Once in Royal David's City
v. 1-3



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

THE FIFTH READING: Luke 2:1-14

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

SPECIAL MUSIC

Long, Long Ago

G. Alan Smith

The Olson Family, Vocals

THE SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by a star to Bethlehem.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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

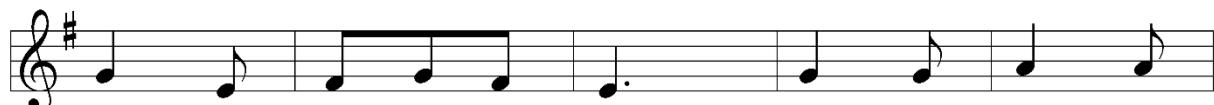
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We Three Kings

v. 1-3



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bearing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
 Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

THE SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-4

The Gospel of John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Follows on the next page.



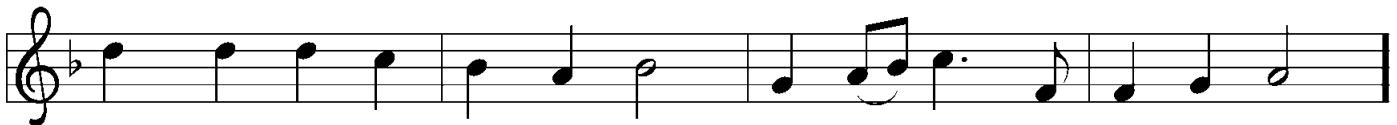
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



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.

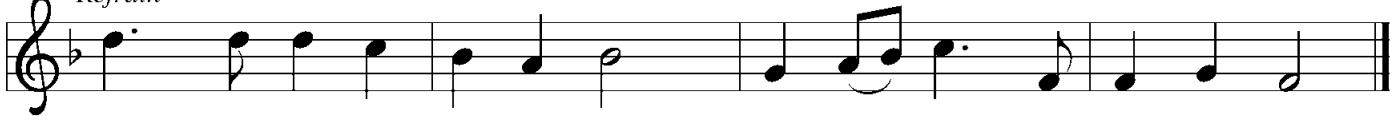


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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.

Refrain



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing while the candles are being lit. Please tilt the unlit candle toward the lit candle to minimize the spilling of hot wax.

CAROL

Silent Night



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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 your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
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 your



Ruh,
peace,
born!
birth,

schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

Pastor Jason Talsness

O Great God, as You came in the stillness of the night, enter our lives this night. Overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence, so that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him.

Give us O God, such love and wonder, that with shepherds, angels and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the Holy Child, the promised King; and with our gifts worship Him, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen

CAROL

Follows on the next page.

Joy to the World

v. 1-3

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

POSTLUDE



2020 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Loved Ones

By-Ethel Baldwin

Mary Buck

By-Fred Buck

Our parents & siblings, Klee,

Anne, Joe & Jim

By-Patty & Clarke Field

Eric's mom Helen Gilster

By-Lana & Eric Gilster

Howard Jacobson & Daniel

Jacobson

By-Joan Jacobson

Alice & Bill Winslow

By-Barbara Johnson

Lisa Jones, Sara & Robert Jones,

Scott Hoover, Elaine Peterson

By-Carolyn & Barry Jones

Angus McLauchlan

By-Lynn & Ken McLauchlan

Helen & Clayton Marshall

Arlene & Charles Boehringer

By-Katharine & John Marshall

My mother Dolores Cornwall &

Jack Munroe

By-Diane Munroe

Ellen Olson

By-Clyde Olson

Our Parents

By-Tammy & Gerry Quirk

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Armand Presto

John & Evelyn Ridberg
By-The Ridberg Family

Carr Baldwin

By-Connie Squibb

Doris & Martin Otto

Cathie & Kirk Barefoot

Ellen Olson

By-Wilette & Lloyd Thompson

Our Parents

By-Randi & Brad VenHuizen

Jean & Dick Williams

*By-Deborah Williams, Terry &
Ann Brantley, Elizabeth
Harrelson and their
grandchildren*

IN HONOR OF

*Mary's Mother Emma Tisdel
and Fred's Parents Freddie &*

Harold Buck

By-Fred Buck

Evelyn McLauchlan

By-Lynn & Ken McLauchlan

*My children David, Susan &
Patty*

*Our Children Leese and Loree
&*

By-Argerie Martin

*Our Grandchildren Drew, Matt,
Karlee, Rylee & Zee
By-Patty & Clarke Field*

Messiah & Its Members

By-Sara Sands

IN HONOR OF

Fayha & Lyric, My Pew Partners

My Children

My Grandchildren

By-Connie Squibb

Our Family

By-Barbara Van Doren & Tim

Andrews

Our Family

Patricia Zugehar

By-Marcia & Greg Stinson

By-Diana & Geoff Wilson

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Milda & Terry Blaney

Diane & Byron Boyd

Carol & John Duren

Janet & Walter Reardon

Tom Thomas

Jody & Stephen Voss

