



**December 27, 2020**

**Lessons and Carols**

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

**The Prelude**

**The Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ is born, give him glory!  
People: **Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!**  
**Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**  
Leader: O earth, sing to the Lord!  
People: **O you nations, praise him in joy,**  
**for he has been glorified!**

**The Carol No. 240**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

**The Greetings and Concerns of the Parish**

## **The Bidding Prayer**

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight  
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,  
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing which is come to pass,  
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture  
the tale of the loving purposes of God  
from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption  
brought us by his holy Child;  
and let us make this house of prayer  
glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,  
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world,  
and all his people;  
for peace upon the earth he came to save;  
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;  
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time  
let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;  
the sick and them that mourn;  
the lonely and the unloved;  
the aged and the little children;  
and all who know not the Lord Jesus,  
or who love him not,  
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember  
all those who rejoice with us,  
but upon another shore and in a great light,  
that multitude which no one can number,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,  
in the words that Christ himself has 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 that 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. Amen.**

## The Blessing

The almighty God bless us with divine 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.**

## The First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

## The Carol No. 219

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

### ***Refrain***

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. ***Refrain***
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him. ***Refrain***

## The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.*

## The Carol No. 217

*Away in a Manger*

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### The Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.*

### The Carol No. 230

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (vss. 1,2, 4)*

ST. LOUIS

1. 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.
2. 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 all on earth!
4. 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!

### The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

### +The Carol No. 238

*Angels We Have Heard on High (vss. 1, 2, 4)*

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

#### *Refrain*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? **Refrain**

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ***Refrain***
4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. ***Refrain***

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## The Offertory Prayer and Offertory

### The Collect

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ  
you gave yourself to the world.  
Grant that, being born in our hearts,  
he may save us from all our sins,  
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,  
to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

### The Blessing

May the Christ who by his Incarnation  
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Leader: Go forth in peace and joy.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### The Hymn No. 246

*Joy to the World (vss. 1, 4)*

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
4. 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, and wonders of his love.

### The Postlude

***We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.***

Senior Pastor: Rev. Matthew D. Bates  
Director of Music: Stanley M. Baker  
Soloist: Emily Downey

Minister to Young Adults: Rev. Drew Willson  
Pianist: Lee Covington