

## TRADITIONS SERVICE ONLINE WORSHIP

*Lessons and Carols with Candle Lighting*

December 24, 2020

### PRELUDE

Diane Gronewold, organ

*offering info in post descriptions and briefly during prelude  
have a candle ready  
set volume, etc.*

### PROCESSIONAL

*Once in Royal David's City*

#250 (HARRIS and Diane)

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed  
Mary, loving mother mild  
Jesus Christ her little child

And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone

### BIDDING PRAYER

Rachael:

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the beginning unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; for unity and community within the church, and in our neighborhoods.

**ALL:**

**We remember the poor and those who have lost hope, those in need of help, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and all who seek after love, the aged and the little children.**

Rachael:

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us to pray:

**ALL:**

**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. Amen.**

**BIDDING CAROL**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

#196

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Born thy people to deliver

Born to set thy people free

Born a child and yet a king

From our fears and sins release us

Born to reign in us forever

Let us find our rest in thee

Now thy gracious kingdom bring

Israel's strength and consolation

By thine own eternal spirit

Hope of all the earth thou art

Rule in all our hearts alone

Dear desire of every nation

By thine all sufficient merit

Joy of every longing heart

Raise us to thy glorious throne

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

We light the candles that represent all God is preparing within us:

hope, peace, joy and love.

We light the Christ candle, and we rejoice with the company of heaven!

God's grace is born among us.

John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh.

This great light lives among us.

By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth.

At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

Let us pray:

God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming to us.

Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor.

In every corner of the world, shine with your hope, with peace, with joy, and with love.

Inspire us to shine in your name.

Shine on us, O God of justice;

Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom's glory;

Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Glory be to God and peace on earth

Christ is born! Alleluia! Amen.

**CAROL***Joy to the World*

#246, vs 1 and 4

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

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

**LESSONS AND CAROLS****First Lesson (Dale)**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The birth of the Messiah is foretold by the prophet Isaiah.*

The people who walked in darkness  
 Have seen a great light;  
 Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
 Upon them a light has shined.  
 For unto us a Child is born,  
 Unto us a Son is given;  
 And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
 And His name will be called  
 Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 Of the increase of His government and peace  
 There will be no end,  
 Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
 To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
 From that time forward, even forever.  
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**Carol***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#211, vs 1 and 7

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 thee, O Israel

O come, desire of nations bind  
 All peoples in one heart and mind  
 From dust thou brought us forth to life  
 Deliver us from earthly strife  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

**Second Lesson (Elaine)**

Isaiah 11:1-9

*The Messiah will come to restore the peace of creation.*

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

His delight is in the fear of the Lord,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;  
But 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 slay the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,  
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.  
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea.

**Carol**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#234, vs 1 and 3

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

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

**Third Lesson (Randy)**

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet foretells the glory of little Bethlehem*

But you, O Bethlehem, 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. Therefore 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. And 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

**Carol***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#230, vs 1 and 4

O little town of Bethlehem

O holy child of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Descend to us, we pray

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

Cast out our sin and enter in

The silent stars go by

Be born in us today

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

We hear the Christmas angels

The everlasting light

The great glad tidings tell

The hopes and fears of all the years

O come to us, abide with us

Are met in thee tonight

Our Lord Emmanuel

**Fourth Lesson (Marna)**

Luke 1:26-38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol***Mary Did You Know?*

**Fifth Lesson (Bob Lowe)**

Matthew 1:18-25

*Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Carol***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

#240

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king

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 the incarnate deity  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king

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 newborn king

**Sixth Lesson (Rosalie)**

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward all people!”

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

**Carol**                      *Angels We Have Heard on High*                      #238, vs 1-3

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo  
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo

**Seventh Lesson (Missy)**                      *Matthew 2:1-11*

*The wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he



was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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." When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Carol**

*We Three Kings*

#254, vs 1 and 4

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of light  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light

Glorious now behold him arise  
King and God and sacrifice  
Alleluia, alleluia  
Sounds through the earth and skies

**Eighth Lesson (Laurie)**

John 1:1-14

*John reflects upon the great mystery of the incarnation.*

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Carol**

*What Child is This?*

#219

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

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

This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh  
Come, peasant, king, to own him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone him

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading

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

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Rachael Warner

**SOLO**

*O Holy Night*

**LITANY OF LIGHT**

Laura:

We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of light is the One whose birth we celebrate. We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live, by which we can love. We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own individual candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in this moment. We light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the child born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all. May we be emboldened to

share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine. **Let there be light.**

**CAROL**

*Silent Night*

#239, vs 1,3,4

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our king;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**