

The Festival Service of Lessons & Carols



CELEBRANTS OF THE FESTIVAL SERVICE

Directors of Music

Ms. Alanna Huggins
Director of Music Ministries
First United Methodist – Wharton

Mr. Jakeb O'Bryan Silva
Organist / Choirmaster
St. Mark's Episcopal – Bay City

Clergy of the Service

Rev. Steven Newcomb
First United Methodist
Wharton

Rev. Jack Myers
St. Mark's Episcopal
Bay City

Rev. Melissa Garza
First United Methodist
Wharton

Readers of the Service

<i>10:30 a.m. – First United Methodist</i>	<i>4:00 p.m. – St. Mark's Episcopal</i>
Kallyn Davang	Watt Hinson
Patti Roades	Ed Larsen
Jeff Davang	Nancy Kubecka
Linda Butcher	Gene Kubecka
Ann Soderstrum	Helen McAda
Toxey Quinn	Laura Waller
Alanna Huggins	Jakeb Silva
Rev. Melissa Garza	Fr. James Ely
Rev. Steven Newcomb	Fr. Jack Myers

Instrumentalists for the Service

Organist
Mr. Jakeb Silva

Pianist to the Choir
Mrs. Barbara Goodell

Choirs of the Service

The Chancel Choir
First United Methodist
Wharton

The Handbell Choir
First United Methodist
Wharton

The Chancel Choir
St. Mark's Episcopal
Bay City

Bearer of the Light of Christ

Ava Vardaman

Celebrants of the Advent Wreath

The Vardaman Family (Cory, Kendalyn, Erwin, Ava, and Aaron)

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Over a century ago, in the Chapel Royal at King's College – Cambridge University, a Christmas liturgy unlike any other in the Western Communion was held.

Just six short weeks prior to Christmas 1918, the Great War, World War I, had ended. In response, the Rt. Rev. Eric Milner–White, the College Chaplain, desired to bring to the people of Cambridge a Christmas service which would allow the simplistic beauty of Christian Worship to shine through the post-War darkness. During the Great War, a known 23-percent of the young men of King's College perished alongside a countless number from the City of Cambridge herself. In response, Rev. Milner–White sought a service which would allow for the grieving of the lost young men, while drawing in those whose faith had been lost through the War.

The service which Milner–White created is today known as *The Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols*. Over the last century, this service has become a tradition for the people of Cambridge. For many in the English–Speaking Church around the world, it is the defining moment which signals the imminent arrival of Christmas. Today, this great Anglican contribution to the Western Liturgical Calendar is celebrated by congregations across denominations around the world. Next Sunday evening, the people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will tune into BBC TV and Radio for the 105th annual celebration of *The Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols*.

Today, we join in this great tradition by celebrating our own version of this great Festival. Our hymns may be different from those which will be Sung in the Chapel Royal this Christmas, but the Spirit will be the same. In this liturgy the congregation walks through the history of God's people, and his covenants with them. We will experience the Fall of Man from God's Grace. We will hear of God's promises to Abraham as the foundations of the Old Covenant are laid. The words of the Great Prophet Isaiah will echo through time as we recount the prophecies of the Messiah. We will experience, through the words of the Gospel writers, the arrival of the Messiah into this earth.

Today, our carols will span many of the great traditions of Western Hymnody. We will sing from the days before the Protestant Reformation. The sounds of long forgotten Royal Christmases in the British Court of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert will echo through our Nave. Our voices will raise carols from the great English Hymn Revival along with carols

written at both ends of the American Civil War. This is a Christmas Celebration for all ages, all generations, and all time. As we lift our voices in song, if the music for the Carol is printed in the service, please stand as you are able in body or in spirit and join.

During the Processional Antiphon, while it may be customary across denominational traditions to stand immediately when the music begins, **this evening we ask that you remain seated until the Great Procession passes your pew.** As the Processional Antiphon progresses, it will, just as the music of the church has, transition from a solo and Choral Antiphon to a Congregational Hymn – so join us in singing the refrain beginning at verse two, and then on the verses for verses 4 and 5.

In the history of the service of Lessons & Carols, it is not the usual practice to include the Holy Eucharist in the service. However, on ever so rare occasions over the last century, this ancient Rite of the church has been celebrated at the High Altar of the Chapel Royal. As this is the only gathering of the worshiping community of First United Methodist Church on this day, Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of this service.

In the United Methodist Church, we acknowledge that Holy Communion, the Eucharist (which literally means “thanksgiving”), the Lord’s Supper, is the family meal for Christians and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. As such, **all persons are invited to come to the table and receive the sacrament.**

We welcome everyone here to this service on this morning as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and pray for you and your families this Christmas season. From the Clergy, Staff, and Congregants of First United Methodist Church – Merry Christmas, and may God show blessing upon you.



THE GREAT PROCESSION

Acolyte Bearing the Light of Christ

Ava Vardaman

The Combined Choirs of:

First United Methodist St. Mark's Episcopal
Wharton, Texas & Bay City, Texas

The Co-Officiant of the Festival Liturgy

The Reverend Melissa Garza

The Officiant of the Festival Liturgy

The Reverend Steven Newcomb

THE SERVICE

The Processional

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – Veni, Veni, Immanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high,
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come



and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
who to thy tribes, on Si - nai's height,
thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny;
and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
in an - cient times didst give the law
from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
make safe the way that leads on high,



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



joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The Bidding

The Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and with the whole of the Christian Communion let us make this Church glad with our joyous carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and fellowship within the Church Christ came to build. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold and the hungry, the abused, the exploited, and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind, and them that mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; for all who find themselves caught in the terrors of endless and ongoing wars; and for 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 before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

We observe a Sacred Silence until disturbed by the tolling of a bell.

As those coming into a spirit of worship and preparing to receive the Holy Sacrament, let us now pause to confess our sins before God and one another.

The People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

The People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candle of Love

Reader: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49)"

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only ..." Yet, like Mary, the "only" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

The People **We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah This bless - ed babe was born,
3. From God our great Cre - a - tor A bless - ed an - gel came,
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings Re - joic - ed much in mind,
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,



For Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior Was born up - on this day,
 And laid with - in a man - ger Up - on this bless - ed morn:
 And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid - ings of the same,
 And left their flocks a - feed - ing In tem - pest, storm, and wind,
 And with true love and char - i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace;



To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.
 For which his moth - er Mar - y Did noth - ing take in scorn.
 How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
 And went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, The bless - ed babe to find.
 This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers shall re - place.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

THE FIRST LESSON

– *The Fall of Man* –

Genesis 3:8 – 15; 17 – 19

The Reader The First Lesson – Man’s fall from Grace. As recorded by in the third chapter of Genesis.

During that day’s cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden’s trees. The Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” The man[a] replied, “I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit[b] from the tree, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the woman, “What have you done?!” And the woman said, “The snake tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the snake, Because you did this, you are the one cursed out of all the farm animals, out of all the wild animals. On your belly you will crawl, and dust you will eat every day of your life.

I will put contempt between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. They will strike your head, but you will strike at their heels.”

To the man he said, “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and you ate from the tree that I commanded, ‘Don’t eat from it,’ cursed is the fertile land because of you; in pain you will eat from it every day of your life.

Weeds and thistles will grow for you, even as you eat the field’s plants; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread—until you return to the fertile land, since from it you were taken; you are soil, to the soil you will return.”

THE CHOIR SINGS AN ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

(Refrain)

Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
M Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON

– *God Promises Abraham to be a Father of Nations* –

Genesis 22:9 – 19

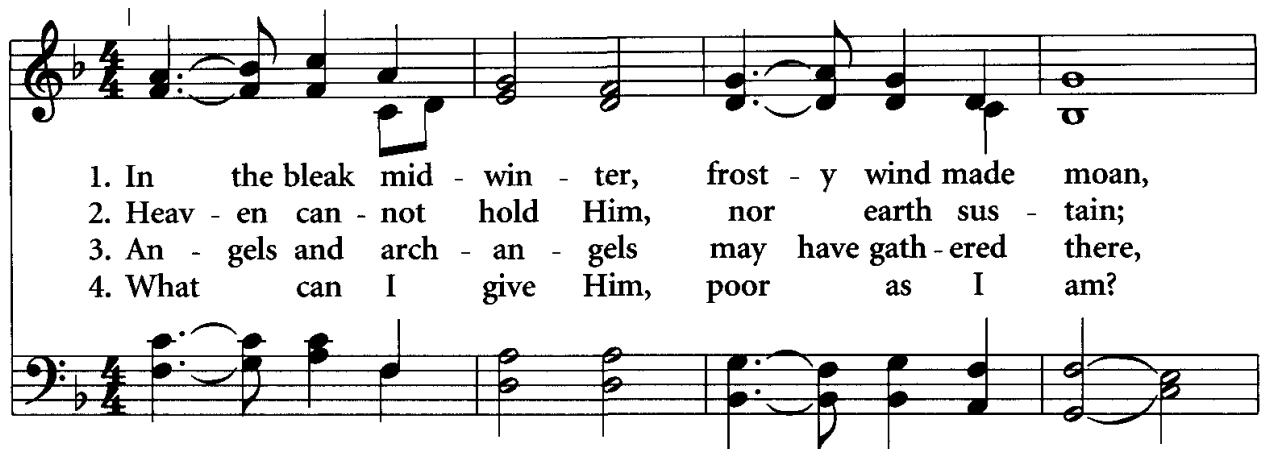
The Reader The Second Lesson – God promises to make Abraham a father of Many Nations. As recounted in the twenty-second chapter of Genesis,.

They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?" Abraham said, "I'm here."

The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

The Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I give my word as the Lord that because you did this and didn't hold back your son, your only son, I will bless you richly and I will give you countless descendants, as many as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand on the seashore. They will conquer their enemies' cities. All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your descendants, because you obeyed me." After Abraham returned to the young men, they got up and went to Beer-sheba where Abraham lived.

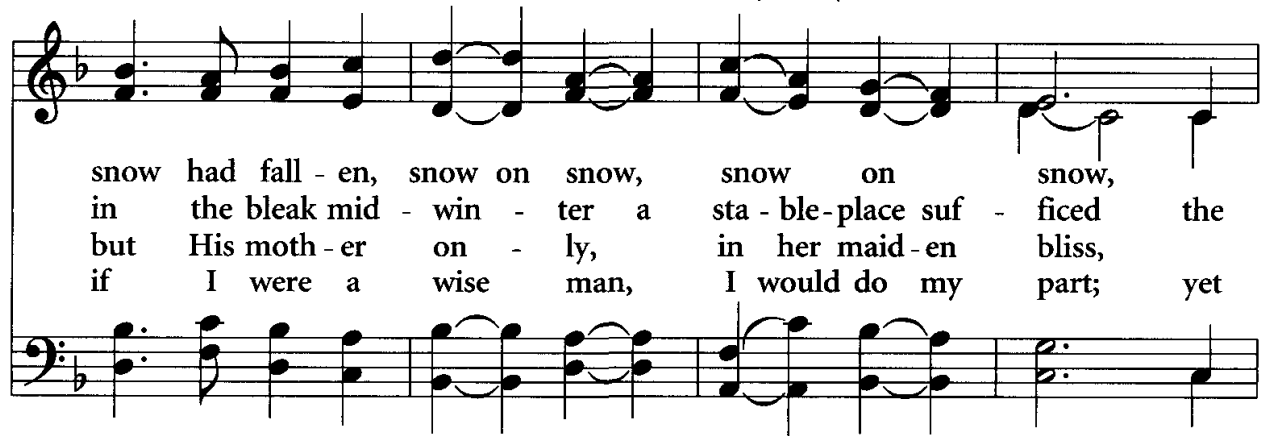
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER




1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2. Heav - en can - not hold Him, nor earth sus - tain;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4. What can I give Him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when He comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed the
but His moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

THE THIRD LESSON

– *The Prophet Foretells the Saviour* –

Isaiah 9:2, 6 – 8

The Reader The Third Lesson – The Prophet foretells the Saviour. As recorded in the ninth chapter of the Prophecies of Isaiah.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

The Lord sent a word against Jacob; it fell upon Israel;



THE CHOIR SINGS AN ANTHEM

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Words 1989 by: Music Arranged 2023 by:
Carl P. Daw, Jr. Michael Larkin

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
Set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
The will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
Till We come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

THE FOURTH LESSON

– *The Peace of Christ Foreshown* –

Isaiah 11:1 – 3a, 4a, 6 – 9

The Reader The Fourth Lesson – The peace of Christ is foreshadowed by the Prophet. As recorded in the eleventh chapter of the Prophecies of Isaiah.

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout[a] from his roots. The Lord's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den. They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.

The Handbell Choir Plays a Carol

Arr. Sandra Eithum

People Look East

AWAY IN A MANGER

Capo 5: (C) F (Am) Dm (C) F (Dm) Gm



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) Bb (G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (F) Bb (G) C



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) F (Dm) Gm



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (G) C (C) F



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

THE FIFTH LESSON

– *The Angel Greets the Virgin* –

Luke 1:26 – 35, 38

The Reader The Fifth Lesson – The Angel Gabriel greets the Virgin. As recorded in the first chapter of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had marital relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son.

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3. All ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has - tening on, by proph-et bards fore-told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and lone-ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the heaven-ly an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



THE SIXTH LESSON

– *The Birth of Jesus Christ, The Messiah* –

Luke 2:1 – 7

The Reader The Sixth Lesson – The birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. As recorded in the second chapter of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.


The Handbells Play A Carol

Arr: Brian Childers

Gentle Mary Laid Her Head



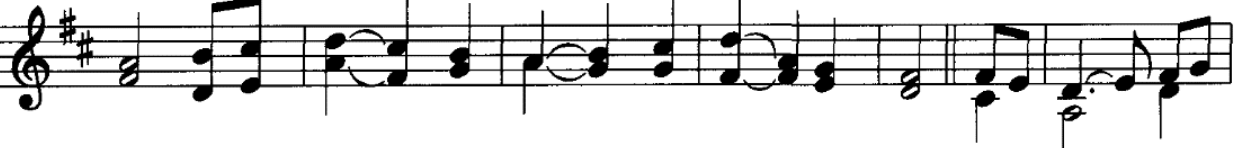
THE FIRST NOWELL



1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
 2. For all to see there was a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star the wise men
 4. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their in -
 to our heav - en - ly Lord who hath made heaven and earth of



sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. Now - ell, Now -
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 naught, and with His blood hu - man - kind hath bought.



ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

– *The Angels Greet and Send the Shepherds* –

Luke 2:8 – 20

The Reader The Seventh Lesson – The angels greet the shepherds and send them to Bethlehem. As recorded in the second chapter of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Gifts, Tithes, & Offerings

THE CHOIR SINGS AN Offertory ANTHEM

O Come, Emmanuel Come

*Words & Music 2017 by:
Joel Raney*

O come, O come Emmanuel,
good news and joyful tidings tell.
All heaven and nature sing;
Let earth receive her King.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Let the bells ring out,
let the whole world shout,
“O come, Emmanuel, come!”

Come and fill the earth with light.
Come and reign in our hearts forever.
Chase away the gloom of night.
Come, Emmanuel, Rejoice!

Make war and strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heavenly peace.
All heaven and nature sing.
Let earth receive her King!

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Let the bells ring out,
let the whole world shout,
“O come, Emmanuel, come!”

O come, come, Emmanuel;
Rejoice!

THE EIGHTH LESSON

– *The Wise Men Come from Afar* –

Matthew 2:1 – 12

The Reader The Eighth Lesson – The Wise Men come afar bearing great gifts. As recorded in the second chapter of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

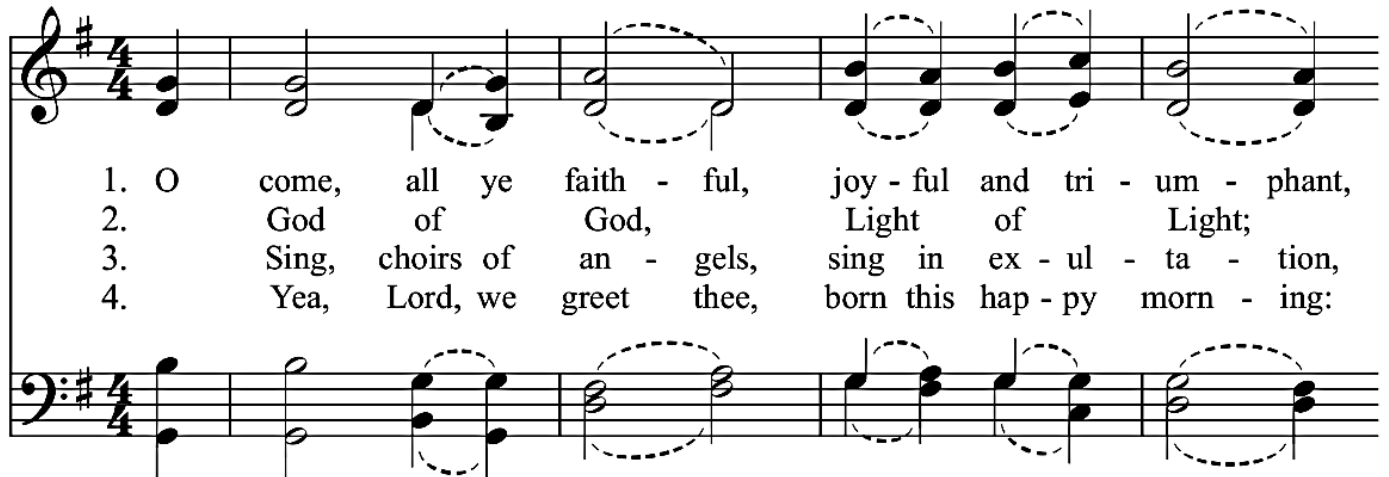
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

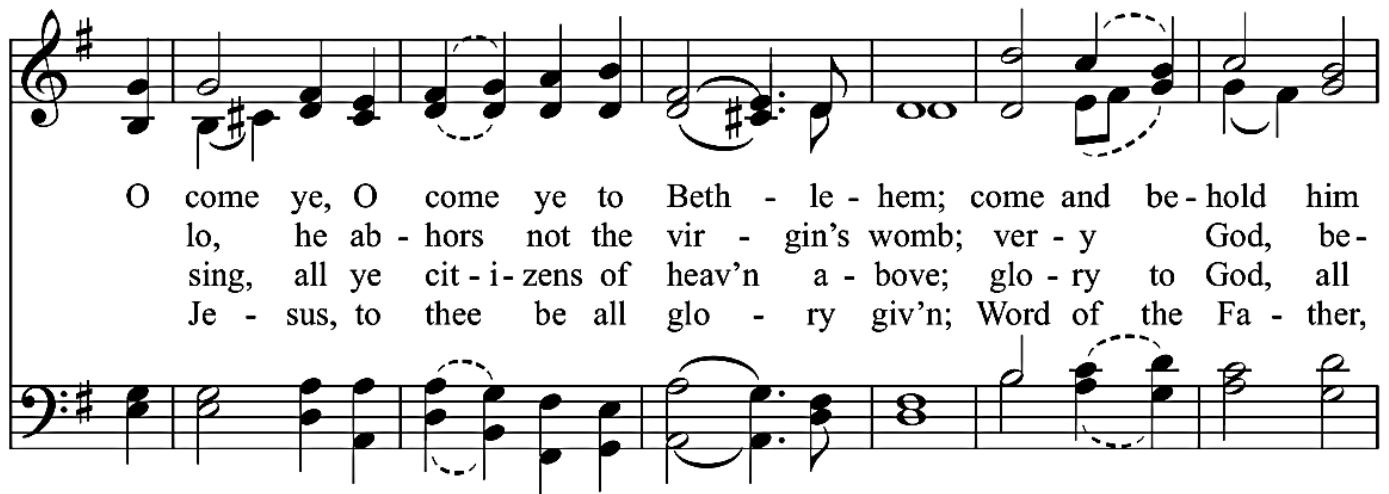
You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



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



O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,



Refrain

born the King of an - gels;
got - ten not cre - at - ed; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est;
late in flesh ap - pear - ing;



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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Holy Eucharist is celebrated today in accordance with
The United Methodist Book of Worship: A Service of Word & Table III*

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

The People: We lift them up to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

The People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

The People: AMEN.

The Celebrant: And now, with the confidence of children, let us boldly pray the words taught to us by Christ, saying ...

The People: 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.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM & A BELL CAROL

Angels Watching Over Me

Traditional American Spiritual

Arranged by: Joel Raney

Tiny baby rest your head.
Angels watchin' over me, my Lord.
Safe inside your manger bed.
Angels watchin' over me.
All night, all day,
angels watchin' over me, my Lord.
All night, all day,
angels watchin' over me.

Sleep, my child and peace attend thee,
all through the night.
(Angels watchin' over me, my Lord.)
Guardian angels, God will send thee,
all through the night.
(Angels watchin' over me.)
Shepherds in the fields abiding
heard the angels' joyful tidings.
God with us, is now residing
all through the night.

Christ is born this holy night.
Angels watchin' over me, my Lord.
Bringing love's redeeming light.
Angels watchin' over me.
All night, all day,
angels watchin' over me, my Lord.
All night, all day,
angels watchin' over me.

The Handbells Play a Carol

Go Tell it on the Mountain

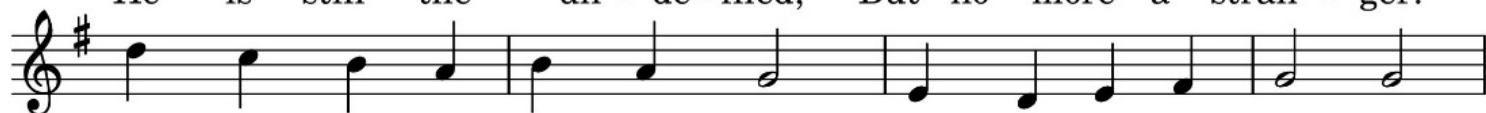
GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD



1. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout His birth; Wise men sought and found Him;
3. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger:
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him:
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger:



Such a Babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

THE NINTH LESSON

– *The Revelation of the Mystery of the Incarnation* –

John 1:1 – 14

The Reader The Ninth Lesson – The revelation of the Incarnation and Deity of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. As recorded in the first chapter of the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THE FINAL BLESSING

***The Blessing**

The Celebrant: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

The People: AMEN.

***The Dismissal**

The Celebrant: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, go forth in peace.

The People: Thanks be to God.

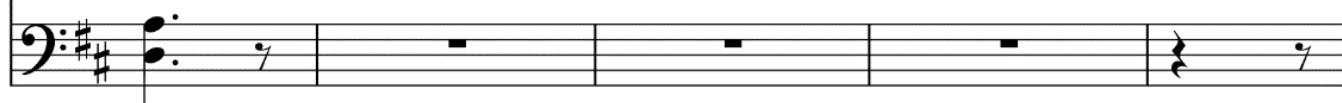
JOY TO THE WORLD



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,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



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



and



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



heav'n and na - ture sing,

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Text: 12th Century Latin Chant, Versified 18th Century by: J.M. Neale
Music: VENI EMMANUEL; 13th Century Plainsong; Arr. T. Helmore, 1856
PUBLIC DOMAIN

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Text: Trad. 18th Century English Carol
Music: GOD REST YOU MERRY; 18th Century England; Adpt. J. Stainer (1840 – 1901)
PUBLIC DOMAIN

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Text: Trad. English Carol; Attrib: W.B. Sandy 1833; Traced to 16th c. English Courts
Music: John Gardner (1917 – 2011); Op. 75 No. 2; Copyright 1966 Oxford University Press
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In the Bleak Midwinter

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894) Penned 1872, (altered)
Music: CRANHAM; Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934) Composed 1906
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Away in a Manger

Text: Stanzas 1 & 2 Unknown c. 1885; Stanza 3 by: Gabriel 1892.
Music: CRADLE SONG; W.J. Kirkpatrick 1895
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It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1849; Based on St. Luke 2.13–14

Music: CAROL; Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

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The First Nowell

Text: Traditional English Carol (1823); Based on St. Matt 1.11 and St. Luke 2.8 – 16

Music: Traditional English Carol (1833)

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***O Come, Emmanuel Come* (Antiphonal for Advent)**

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: Latin Hymn; Attr: John Francis Wade, 1751 Tr: Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music: ADESTE FIDELES; Attr: John Francis Wade, 1751

Descant: Arr. Sir David Wilcocks Copyright 1961 Oxford University Press

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The Deutsche Messe

Text: Traditional Responses: The Sanctus & Agnus Dei

Music: Franz Peter Schubert, 1827 Catalogue: D–872 Arr. & Adapt: Richard Proulx

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Angels Watching Over Me

Text: Traditional American Spiritual & Traditional Welsh Lullaby

Music: ANGELS WATCHING & AR HYD Y NOS; With new material. Arr.: Joel Raney

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Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Text: Joseph S. Cook (1859 – 1933) Penned 1919

Music: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM (*A Spring Carol*) c. 14th Century Finnish (1582)
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Joy to the World

Text: Based on Psalm 98; Penned: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: ANTIOCH by: Lowell Mason, 1836. Using material by: G.F. Handel, 1742
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