

December 20, 2020

***A CEREMONY OF
LESSONS & CAROLS***



Announcements

Lighting Advent Wreath - Advent 4



The Fourth Candle
(The Candle of LOVE)

Today we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, the candle reminding us of God's gift of LOVE. Before we do that, let us remember the gifts of God symbolized by the other candles in the wreath: the light of Hope, the light of Peace, and the light of Joy.

(Light candles as mentioned)

The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is LOVE.

(Light the fourth candle).

The apostle Paul invites us to:

"Let LOVE be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; LOVE one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour." Romans 12:9-10

Congregation:

Loving God, we thank You for Your gift of love shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive and live in His love. We ask in the name of the One born in Bethlehem. Amen!

Opening Sentence -

"I am a servant of the Lord; let it be according to his word."

(Luke 1:38)

**Processional: CP # 123 "Once in Royal David's City"
(vs.1,2 (Mia) v. 3 Congregation)**

(Mia & Zoe) 1.) Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

(Mia & Zoe) 2.) 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 mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

(Congregation and Choir)

**3.) Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

An Introduction and short history of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Bidding Prayer

First Lesson - Suzanne Gaby

Then Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." *Genesis 3:8-15*



“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

CP # 120

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.

CP # 121

3.) How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
As love imparts to human hearts
The blessings of God’s heaven
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4.) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel

Second Lesson - Susan Anderson

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." *Genesis 22; 15 - 18*

CP # 143 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

1.) Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

2.) Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

3.) Though an infant, now we view Him,
He shall fill the eternal throne,
Gather all the nations to Him;
Every knee shall then bow down. **Refrain**

4.) Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

Third Lesson - Peter Aulen

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9: 2-6*



1.) The first “Nowell” the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Born is the King of Israel!

2.) They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Born is the King of Israel!

3.) And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

Born is the King of Israel!

4.) This star drew nigh to the northwest:
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!

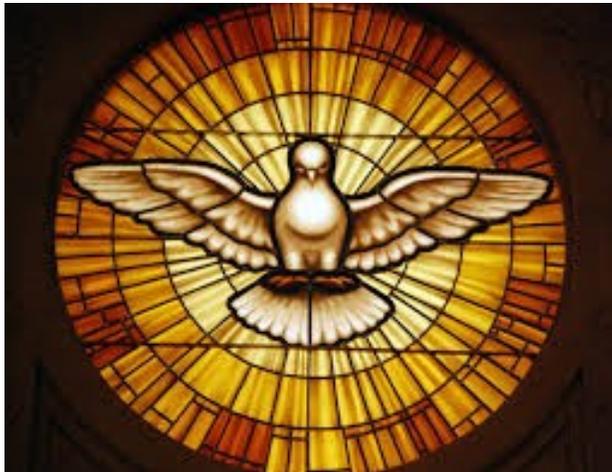
Born is the King of Israel!

Fourth Lesson - Marg McAvity

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down
with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling
together; and a little child will lead them.
Isaiah 11:1 -3A, 4a, 6



“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

1.) 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

2.) 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 Saviour,
When half spent was the night.

3.) O flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendour
The darkness ev'rywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our ev'ry load.

Fifth Lesson - Annabel Gale

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

CP # 137

“What Child is This?”

1.) What child is this,
Who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherd's 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.**

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 heart enthrone Him.

Refrain.

Sixth Lesson - Marks McAvity

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, and everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. *Luke 2:1, 3 - 7*

CP # 153 “Good Christians All Rejoice”

1.) Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today;

Christ is born today!

2.) Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!

Hear the news of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore!

Christ was born for this;

Christ was born for this.

3.) Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
Come at his most gracious call
To find salvation one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

Seventh Lesson – Sara Partridge

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” *Luke 2: 8-15*



CP # 138

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1.) 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!”**

2.) Christ by highest heav'n 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 as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain.**

3.) Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings,
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

Eighth Lesson – Patricia MacLeod

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. *Matthew 2: 1-12*



CP # 118

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

1.) 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!**

2.) God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God
Begotten, not created.

Refrain

3.) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest!

Refrain.

Ninth Lesson - Gary Davies

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1: 1-14 NIV



Collect

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 as our redeemer, so may we, with sure confidence, behold him, embrace your will and rejoice in your salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you this day and always.

CP # 154

“Joy to the World”

- 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, (x2)
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.
- 2.) Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let us glad songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, (x2)
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
- 3.) No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as our sin is found, (x2)
Far as, far as our sin is found.
- 4.) He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, (x3)



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