



*Nativity by Carol Aust*

# Christmas Lessons and Carols

Anglican Diocese of Edmonton

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Welcome**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**All: May all the earth be filled with his glory.**

Leader: Light has sprung up for the righteous,

**All: And joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted. Glory to God in the highest, And peace to his people on earth.**

I welcome you, on behalf of the community of All Saints' cathedral here in Edmonton. We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save:

for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere;

for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

**Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful**

*Jeremy Spurgeon with  
Kayleigh Spriensma and Caroline Howarth  
All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton*

**Reading 1 Isaiah 9.2,6,7**

*The Rev. Ruth Sesink Bott  
All Saints' Cathedral*

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. 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. His 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.

**Hymn: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**

*The Rev. Tim Chesterton  
St. Margaret's, Edmonton*

**Reading 2 Luke 1:26-38**

*Margaret Yurchak  
St. Thomas', Wainwright*

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.

**Hymn Angels We Have Heard On High**

*John Brough with,  
RJ and Janette Chambers, Laren Stepler and Emily Stremel  
Holy Trinity, Old Strathcona*

**Reading 3 Luke 1:39-56**

*Megan LeBlanc (and Penelope)  
St. Mary and St. George, Jasper*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good

things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

**Hymn What Child Is This?**

*Holy Trinity Strathcona*

**Reading 4 Luke 2:1-7**

*Laurance Hill*

*All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton*

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

**Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*David Von Bieker*

*St. Faith's, Edmonton*

**Reading 5 Luke 2:8-16**

*C.J. Cayer*

*St. Paul's, Leduc*

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

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Homily

*The Right Reverend Jane Alexander*

### Hymn **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*All Saints' Cathedral*

### Incarnation Litany

*In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying,  
“Lord, grant us peace.”*

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord, **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

**Collect**

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and  
brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with  
you always. Amen.

Postlude

In dir ist Freude BWV 615  
*In Thee is gladness*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

The Right Reverend Jane Alexander, Bishop  
The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek, Dean

Jeremy Spurgeon, Music Director  
Kaleigh Spriensma and Caroline Howarth, singers  
*All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton*

John Brough, Music Director  
RJ and Janette Chambers, Laren Stepler and Emily Stremel, singers  
*Holy Trinity, Old Strathcona.*

The Reverend Tim Chesterton  
*St. Margaret's, Edmonton*

David Von Bieker,  
*St. Faith's, Edmonton*

Evan Thomas, Music Director  
*St. Matthias, Edmonton*

1<sup>st</sup> reader The Reverend Ruth Sesink Bott  
*All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader: Margaret Yurchak  
*St. Thomas', Wainwright*

3<sup>rd</sup> Reader Megan LeBlanc (and Penelope)  
*St. Mary and St. George, Jasper*

4<sup>th</sup> Reader Laurance Hill  
*All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton*

5<sup>th</sup> Reader C.J. Cayer  
*St. Paul's, Leduc*

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