

Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP | **Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:10, 14-17; 4:14-16**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

Page 3 | *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O Come, All Ye Faithful (#208)

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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest;

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
late in flesh appearing;

Refrain

John Francis Wade, 1751 | Trans. Fredrick Oakley, 1841
John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

KIDS' CHOIR

Little Jesus/O Come, All Ye Faithful

FIRST LESSON | **Genesis 3:8-15**

#196 | *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (verses 1, 2, 4)*

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley (1744); Text of stanzas 2 & 3 © 1978, InterVarsity
Christian Fellowship. Used by permission. | Tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland H.
Prichard (1830)

SECOND LESSON | **Genesis 22:9-18**

#194 | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 3, 4)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

Text Source: Latin antiphons, 12th cent. Latin hymn (1710); Translator: John Mason Neale (1851; Alt. 1951) | Tune: VENI EMMANUEL; Arranger: Thomas Helmore (1856)

THIRD LESSON | **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

#221 | *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs. 1, 4, 5)*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance
tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God;
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.

FOURTH LESSON | **Isaiah 11:1-2, Micah 5:2-5**

#230 | *Thou Who Wast Rich, Beyond All Splendor*

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising,
heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

Frank Houghton, 1894-1972 | French carol melody; arr. by Charles H. Kitson, 1930
CCLI: 1095616/20146299

FIFTH LESSON | **Luke 1:26-38**

Solo | *Magnificat*

SIXTH LESSON | **Luke 2:1-7**

#225 | *Once in Royal David's City (verses 1, 2, 4)*

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.

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 Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848 | Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
CCLI# 1095616/20146299

SEVENTH LESSON | **Luke 2:8-16**

#216 | *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

Polish Carol Paraphrased by Edith Ree c. 1925 | Trad. Polish Melody
CCLI#: 1095616/20146299

Kids' Choir | *The Friendly Beasts*

EIGHTH LESSON | **Matthew 2:1-11**

#226 | *As with Gladness Men of Old (verses 1, 2, 5)*

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix (1860; Alt. 1961)
Tune: DIX; Composer: Conrad Kocher (1838)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad:
then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad:
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before Your grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forevermore. Amen.”

CANDLE LIGHTING

Silent Meditation | *The Glory of the Father*

CLOSING HYMN

#210 | *Silent Night*

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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

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!

Joseph Moor 1818 | Franz Gruber 1818

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Remembering that it happened once,
We cannot turn away the thought,
As we go out, cold, to our barns
Toward the long night's end, that we
Ourselves are living in the world
It happened in when it first happened,
That we ourselves, opening a stall
(A latch thrown open countless times
Before), might find them breathing there,
Foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
The mother kneeling over Him,
The husband standing in belief
He scarcely can believe, in light
That lights them from no source we see,
An April morning's light, the air
Around them joyful as a choir.
We stand with one hand on the door,
Looking into another world
That is this world, the pale daylight
Coming just as before, our chores
To do, the cattle all awake,
Our own frozen breath hanging
In front of us; and we are here
As we have never been before,
Sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.

“Remembering That It Happened Once”
By Wendell Berry



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