

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

Our service of Lessons and Carols draws upon our English tradition. The prayers and order of lessons were put together in its current form for use in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, in 1918, where it is still used today. In this service we purposely use the King James Version of scripture for its aesthetic beauty and as a celebration of our rich heritage.

PRELUDE

"What Child is This" arr. Robert J. Lamb
Central Bells, featuring Peter Deneen: soprano saxophone

"Pastoral" Josef Rheinberger
Tom Bara, organ

"White Christmas" arr. Mark Taylor
The WELL Horns

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL "Once in Royal David's City" (words below)

*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 Saviour holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us, he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles, like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.*

*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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

One: We have lit the first two Advent candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(words below)

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!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb; very God, begotten, not created: 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, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above. Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesu, to Thee be glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*DOXOLOGY FOR ADVENT

(tune: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

**Praise God from whom all Blessings flow,
Praise God all Creatures here below,
Praise God above ye Heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice,
Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*BIDDING PRAYER

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"He is Born, the Divine Child"

traditional French Carol

CUMC Cherub and Chorister Choirs

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

(see BELOW)

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

arr. Jeffrey Cobb

The WELL Horns

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

CAROL

"Lo! In the Cold of Winter Deep"
Chancel Choir

Gordon Thornett

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and 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; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' 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

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"
Chancel Choir

Howard Helvey

THIRD LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying; behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

CAROL

"Precious Promise"
The WELL Band

Steven Curtis Chapman

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever. And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

CAROL

"Mary Did You Know" Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
WELL Band and Chancel Choir

FIFTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

"Gloria"
WELL Band

Ratcliff/Houghton

ADVENT LITANY

"Kneeling in Bethlehem"

Ann Weems

One: In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

**All: This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel, let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.**

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in the time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb; veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

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 the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.