



CHRIST THE KING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Lessons
& Carols*



Christmas Eve at Christ the King

SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY (instrumental)

WELCOME

Rev. Dave Lindberg

OPENING PRAYER

LESSON ONE

Genesis 3:8-19, read by Jane Peterson

God tells sinful Adam and Eve that they have lost the life of Paradise and that the seed of the woman will defeat the serpent:

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid. Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate." So the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

*So the Lord God said to the serpent:
Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.*

*He said to the woman:
I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.*

And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate

*from the tree about which I
commanded you, 'Do not eat from
it': The ground is cursed because of
you. You will eat from it by means
of painful labor all the days of your
life. It will produce thorns and*

*thistles for you, and you will eat
the plants of the field.
You will eat bread by the sweat of
your brow until you return to the
ground, since you were taken from
it. For you are dust, and you will
return to dust.'**

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

JOY TO THE WORLD

1
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders of His love.

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LESSON TWO

Genesis 22:1-18, read by Tony Sok

God promises Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed:

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he answered.

"Take your son," he said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.

Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father."

And he replied, "Here I am, my son."

Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together.

When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

*He replied, "Here I am."
 Then he said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For*

now I know that you fear God,
since you have not withheld your
only son from me.” Abraham
looked up and saw a ram caught in
the thicket by its horns. So
Abraham went and took the ram
and offered it as a burnt offering in
place of his son. And Abraham
named that place *The Lord Will
Provide*, so today it is said, “It will
be provided on the Lord’s
mountain.”

Then the angel of the Lord called to
Abraham a second time from

heaven and said, “By myself I have
sworn,” this is the Lord’s
declaration: “Because you have
done this thing and have not
withheld your only son, I will
indeed bless you and make your
offspring as numerous as the stars
of the sky and the sand on the
seashore. Your offspring will
possess the city gates of their
enemies. And all the nations of the
earth will be blessed by your
offspring because you have obeyed
my command.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

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:

Chorus

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.

(chorus)

3

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.

(chorus)

4

Saints before the alter bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,

In his temple shall appear.

(chorus)

5

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.

(chorus)

Lesson Three

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, read by Greg Gorman

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior:

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
a light has dawned
on those living in the land of
darkness...
For a child will be born for us,
a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

*Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
The dominion will be vast,
and its prosperity will never end.
He will reign on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,
to establish and sustain it
with justice and righteousness from
now on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will
accomplish this.*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

1

God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

2

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.

(chorus)

3

"Fear not, then," said the Angel
"Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might."

(chorus)

4

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find.

(chorus)

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LESSON FOUR

Isaiah 11:1-9, read by Sarah Forster

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold:

*Then a shoot will grow from the
stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear
fruit.*

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on
him—
a Spirit of wisdom and
understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and strength,*

*a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear
of the Lord.*

*His delight will be in the fear of the
Lord.*

*He will not judge
by what he sees with his eyes,
he will not execute justice
by what he hears with his ears,*

*but he will judge the poor
righteously
and execute justice for the
oppressed of the land.*

*He will strike the land
with a scepter from his mouth,
and he will kill the wicked
with a command from his lips.*

*Righteousness will be a belt around
his hips;
faithfulness will be a belt around
his waist.*

*The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with
the goat.*

*The calf, the young lion, and the
fatted calf will be together,
and a child will lead them.
The cow and the bear will graze,
their young ones will lie down
together, and the lion will eat straw
like cattle.*

*An infant will play beside the cobra's
pit, and a toddler will put his hand
into a snake's den.*

*They will not harm or destroy each
other on my entire holy mountain,
for the land will be as full
of the knowledge of the Lord
as the sea is filled with water.*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

HARK! THE HERALD ANGLES 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 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 the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the 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 Son 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!"

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LESSON FIVE

Luke 1:26-38, read by Doug Pollock

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary:

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 named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to 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 him the throne of his father David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. For nothing will be impossible with God."

"See, I am the Lord's servant," said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

IT WAS NOT A SILENT NIGHT (Liesl Raikes)

Lesson Six

Luke 2:1-16, read by Katie Blanks

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus, and the shepherds go to the manger:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to people he
favors!*

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

CAROL

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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 men on earth.

3

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming yet 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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels; the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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LESSON SEVEN

John 1: 1-14, read by Jocelyn Raikes

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

The Elders will light their candles first and then share the flame with the congregation until all the candles are lit.

CAROL

O HOLY NIGHT

1

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!

3

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE:

The Holly and the Ivy (instrumental)