



CHRIST THE KING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve 2023 at Christ the King

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY AND THE SUSSEX CAROL (instrumental)

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WELCOME

Rev. Dave Lindberg

OPENING PRAYER

LESSON ONE

Genesis 3:8-19, read by Debby Comer

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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.

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 meek, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

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;
 when like stars His children crowned
 all in white shall wait around.

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LESSON TWO

Genesis 22:1-18, read by Doug Pollock

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

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

1

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 ev'ry longing heart

2

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 own sufficient merit
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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Lesson Three

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, read by Margaret Doria

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

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

2

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

(chorus)

3

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.

(chorus)

4

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

(chorus)

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LESSON FOUR

Isaiah 11:1-9, read by Carolyn Bush

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

LO HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING (duet)
Traditional

LESSON FIVE

Luke 1:26-38, read by Hugh Comer

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

MARY'S SONG (OUR KING OF PEACE) (duet)
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Lesson Six

Luke 2:1-7, read by Karla Pollock

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

SILENT NIGHT
Traditional

1
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.

2
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!"

3
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!

4
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."

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LESSON SEVEN

Luke 2:8-16, read by Joshua Gorman

The shepherds go to the manger.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT (duet)

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LESSON EIGHT

Matthew 2:1-12, read by JoJo Olivo

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

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!

LESSON NINE

John 1:1-14, read by Julie Lindberg

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

HOMILY

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Chorus

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

(chorus)

3

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

(chorus)

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CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE:

BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE ISABELLA
THE WEXFORD CAROL
(instrumental)

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Special thanks to tonight's music team:

Julie Lindberg, CTK Music Director, piano and vocals

Sarah Forster, vocals

Greg Gorman, vocals

Billy Hollingsworth, bass and vocals

Carol Hollingsworth, vocals

Jordan Hollingsworth, guitar

JoJo Olivo, violin

Lauren Sok, bassoon

Matt Thompson, sound magician

A History of Lessons and Carols

In 1918, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was constructed out of the grief and horror of the First World War, which had ended only 6 weeks before Christmas Eve. The thirty-four-year-old former army chaplain Eric Milner-White had witnessed unspeakable violence on the Western Front firsthand. How could he communicate a message of God's love to those who had been brutalized and traumatized by war?

Instead of a complicated liturgy, the carols service was simpler, alternating between choral anthems, congregational hymns, and readings, recounting the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the mystery of the Incarnation, and the certainty of future peace. The resulting service was more accessible and meaningful and acknowledged the suffering of those impacted by the Great War with prayers written specifically for them.

This history (gleaned from several sources) is relevant to Christians today, as we look for comfort and meaning in the face of great oppression and injustice across the world. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God, seen through the windows and the words of the Bible."

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