



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday Evening, December 13, 2020

STRING & HARP PRELUDE

WELCOME

Dr. Mantle Nance

***OPENING BIDDING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

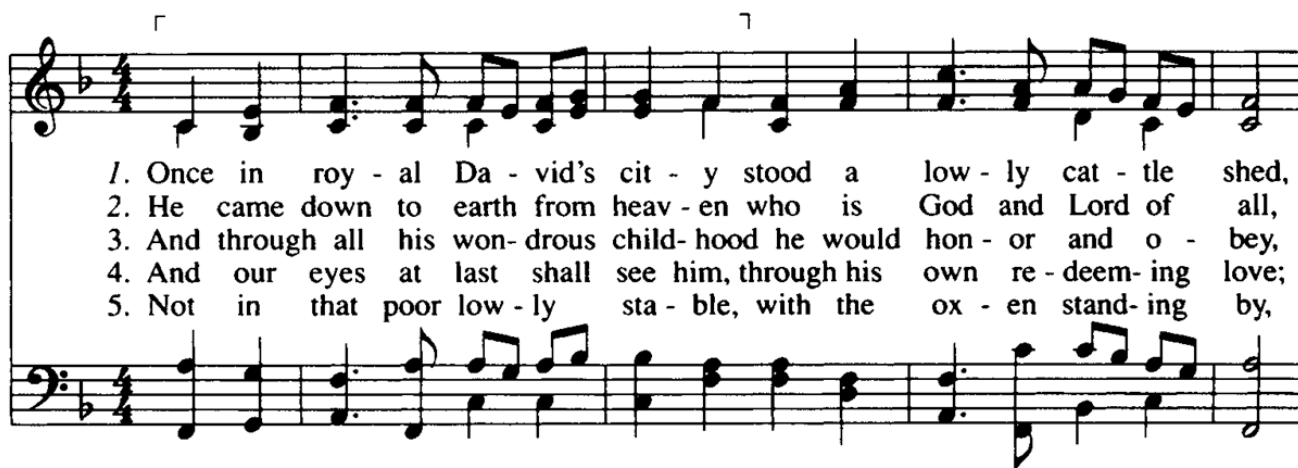
Leader: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let us listen anew to the message of the angels, and in heart and mind, go even to Bethlehem to see what has come to pass. As we await the great celebration of Christmas, we prepare our hearts that we may be shown its true meaning. We hear from the Holy Scriptures the words of the prophets foretelling the coming of Immanuel—God with us. We rehearse again the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to our glorious redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord. We join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host as we sing God's glory on high. We rejoice in the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ushers in a kingdom of power and glory forever. Lastly, we offer up our prayers and praises to the Throne of Heaven in the words Christ himself taught us, saying:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

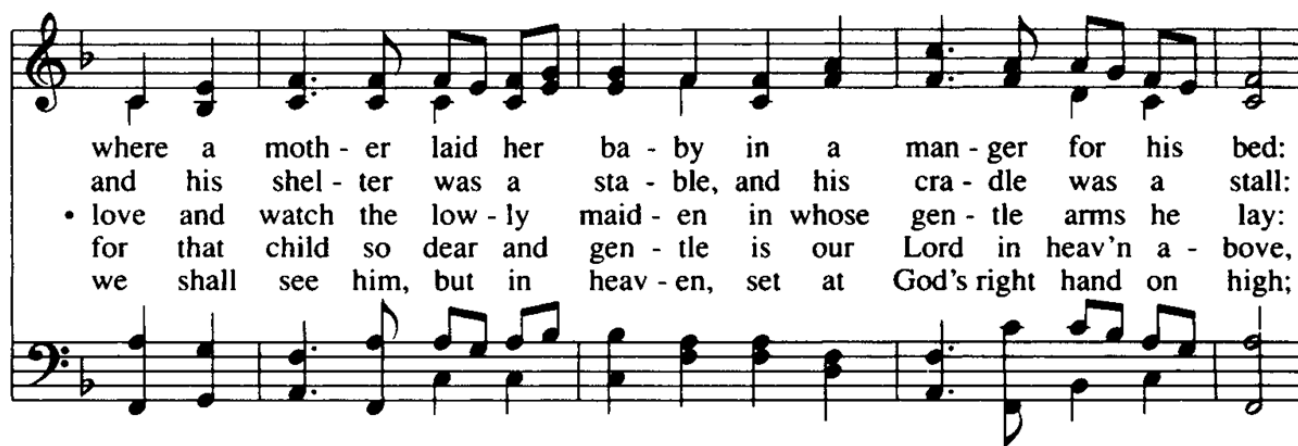
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Once in Royal David's City

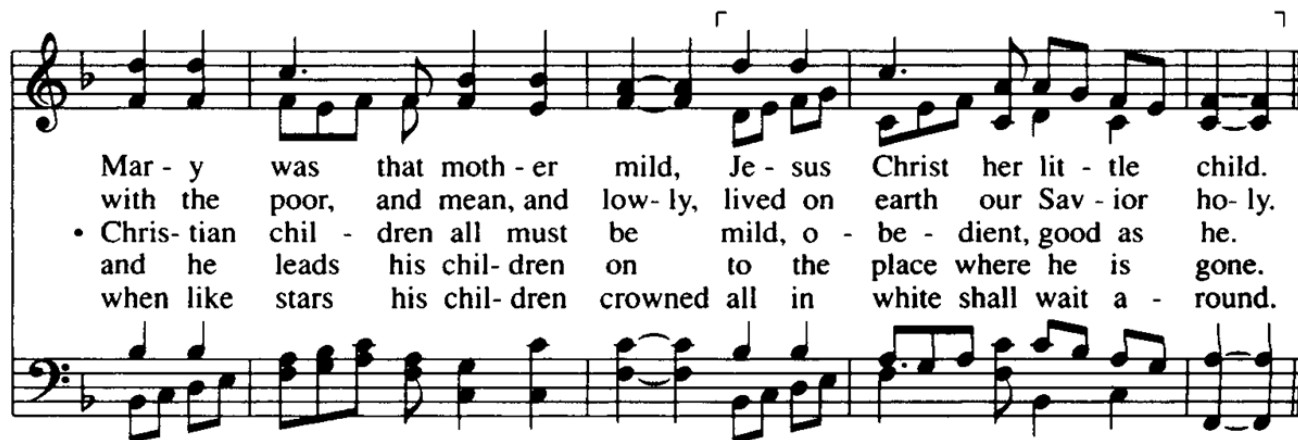
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey,
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
 • love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,
 we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 • Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

The Lord first promises a coming Messiah:

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

J.S. Bach

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning,
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, The day of grace is dawning.
This Child, though weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking, Our peace with God now making.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said,
"By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM

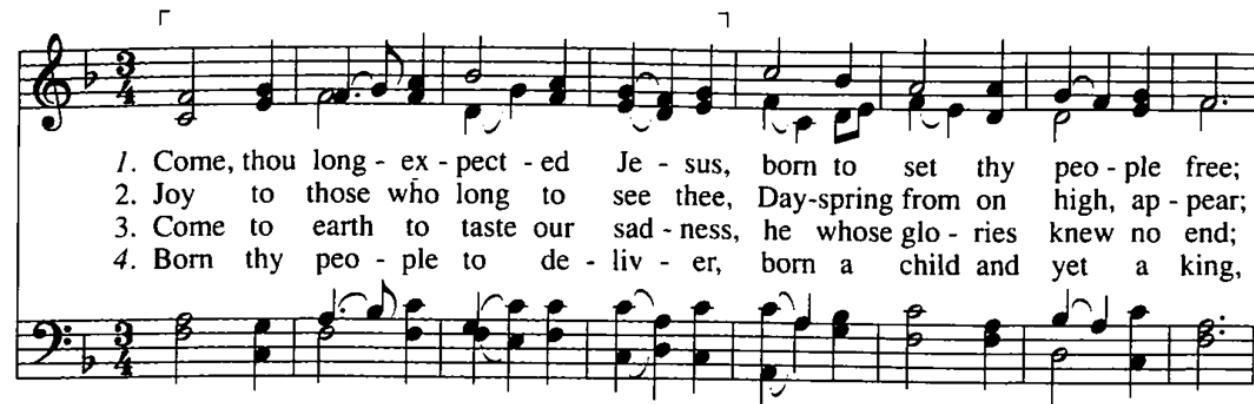
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel w/ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Stephen DeCesare

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

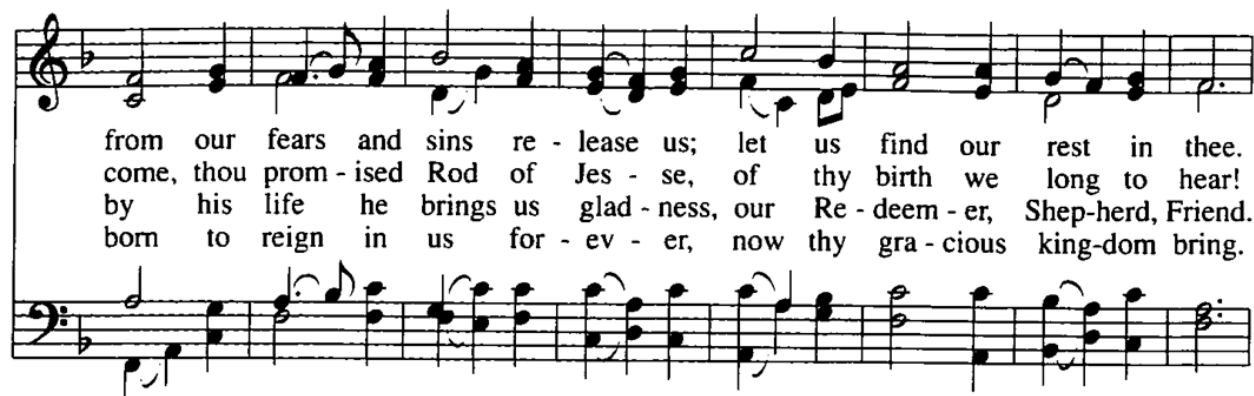
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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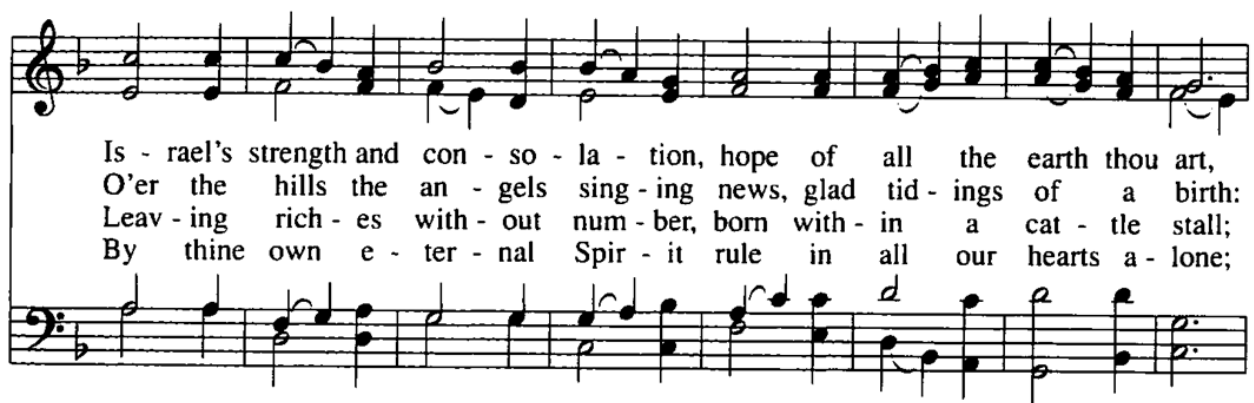
Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25




1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The prophet foretells the birth and kingdom of the Messiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

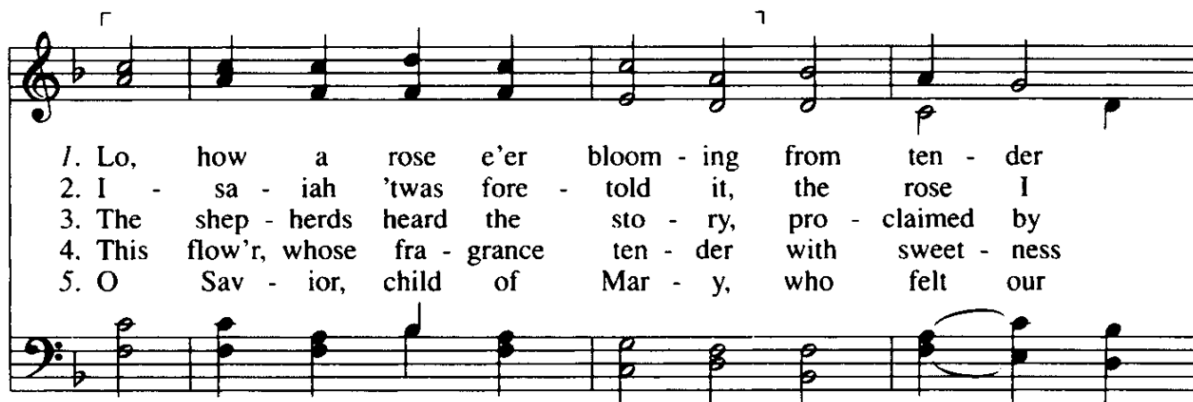
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

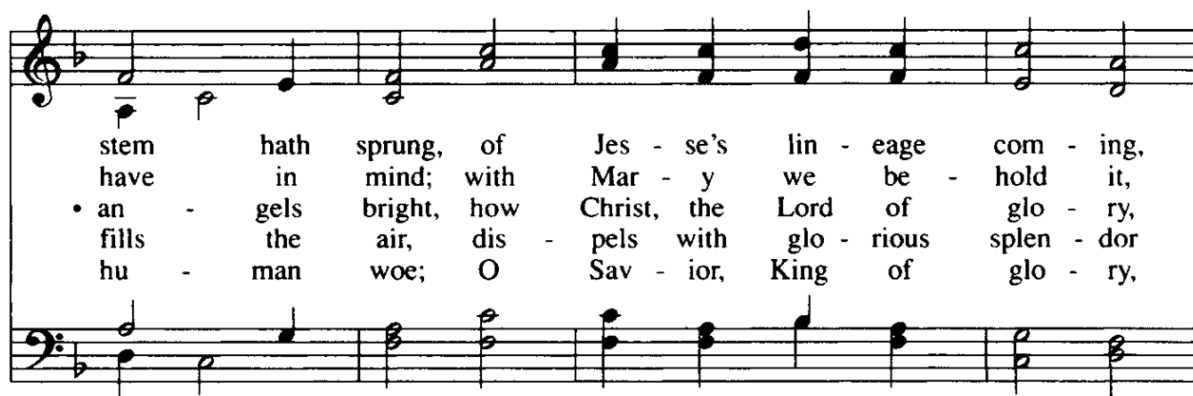
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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

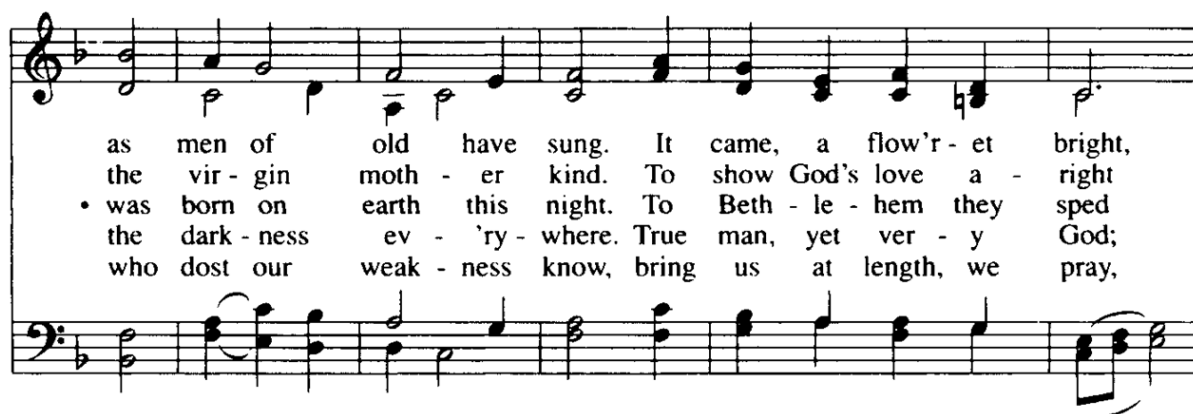
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
Is. 11:1



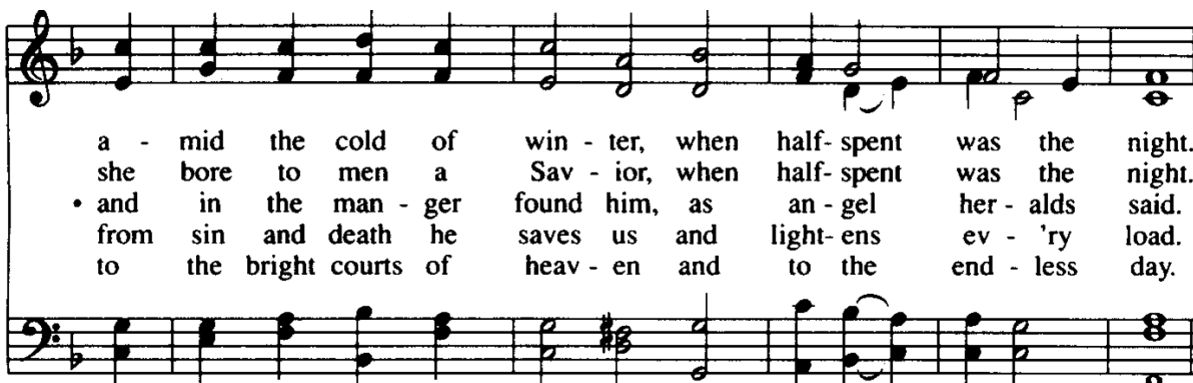
1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our



stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
• an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,



as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
• was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,



a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
• and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the place of the Messiah's birth:

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lewis. W. Redner

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The announcement of the Savior's birth is spoken to Mary:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named
Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this
might be. And the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive
in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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
father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there
will be no end." And Mary said to the angel,

"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

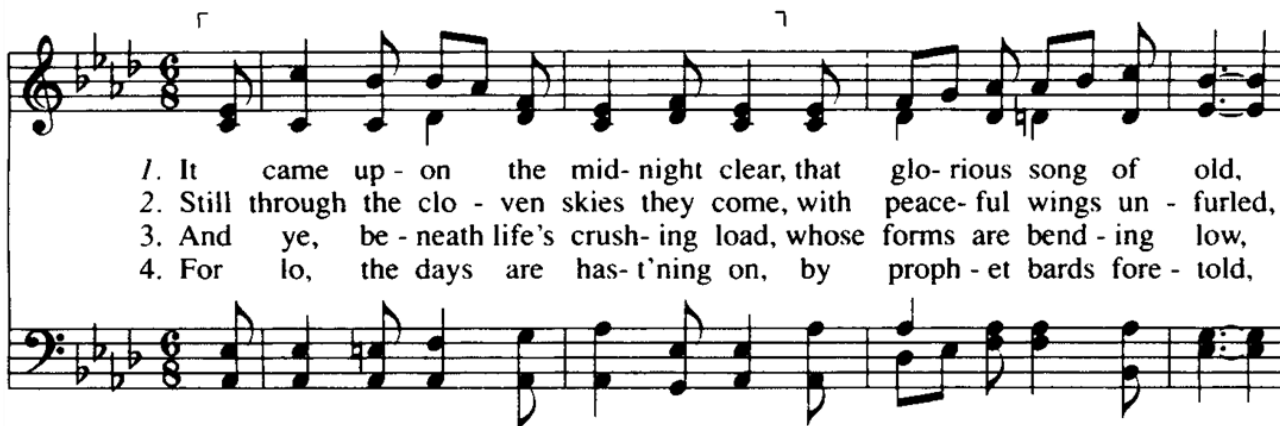
And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the
Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the
Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son,
and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be
impossible with God." And Mary said,

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel
departed from her.

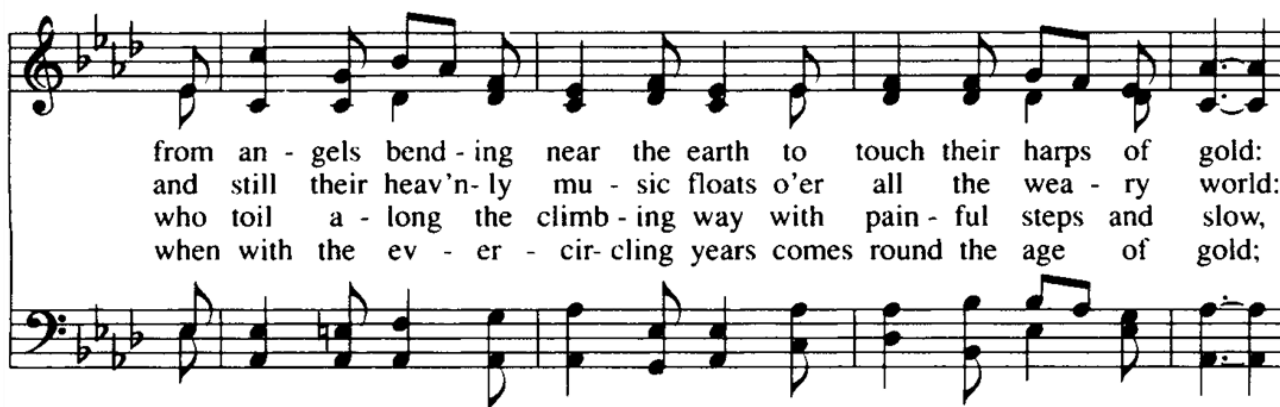
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

200

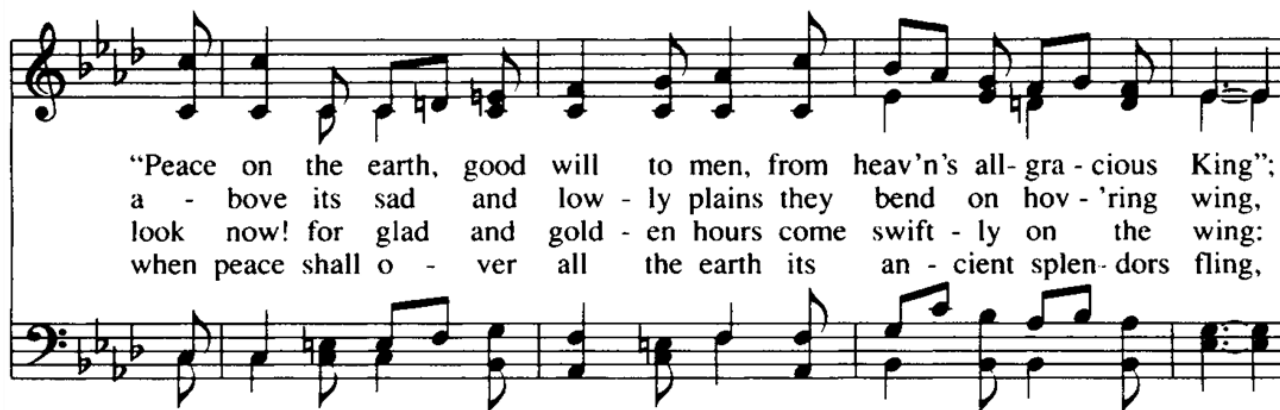
An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.
Luke 2:9



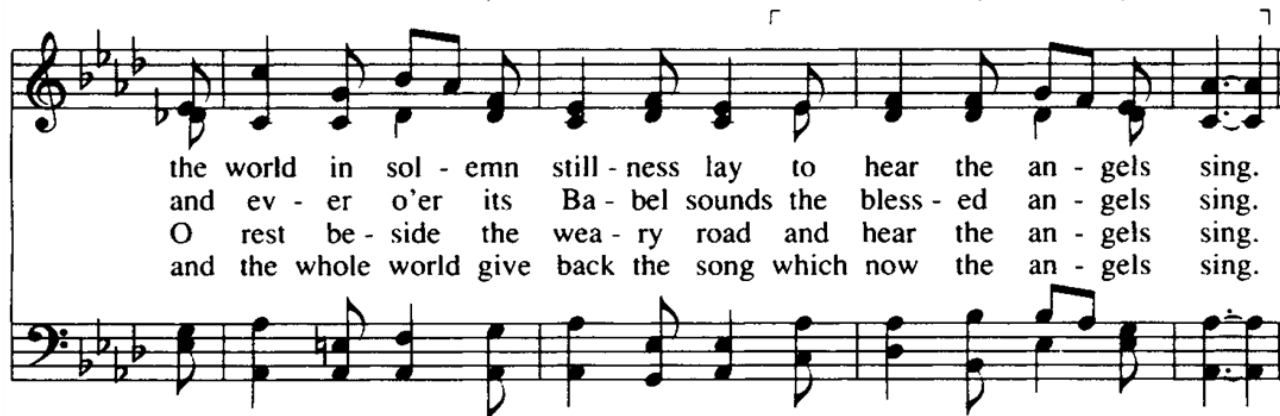
1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1,3-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CHORAL ANTHEM “There is No Rose of Such High Virtue”

Rhett Barnwell

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM “What Child Is This”

16th century, W. C. Dix

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds hear the song of the angel and hurry to the manger:

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

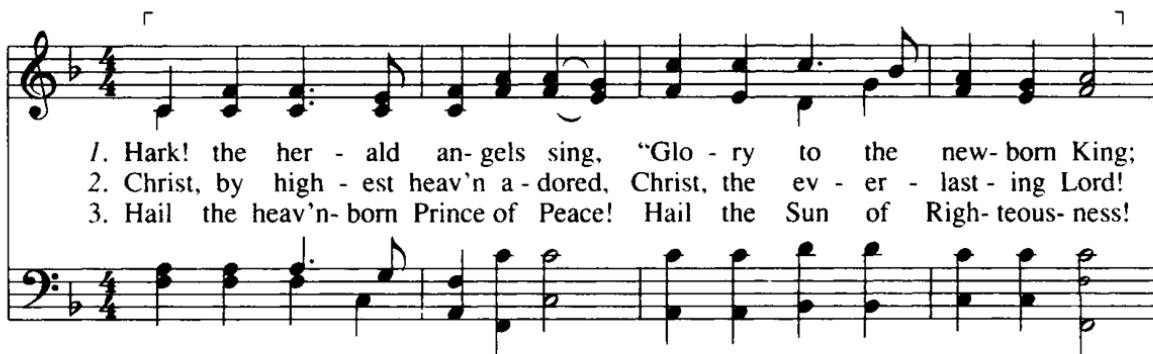
And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

INSTRUMENTAL ANTHEM “Angels We Have Heard on High”

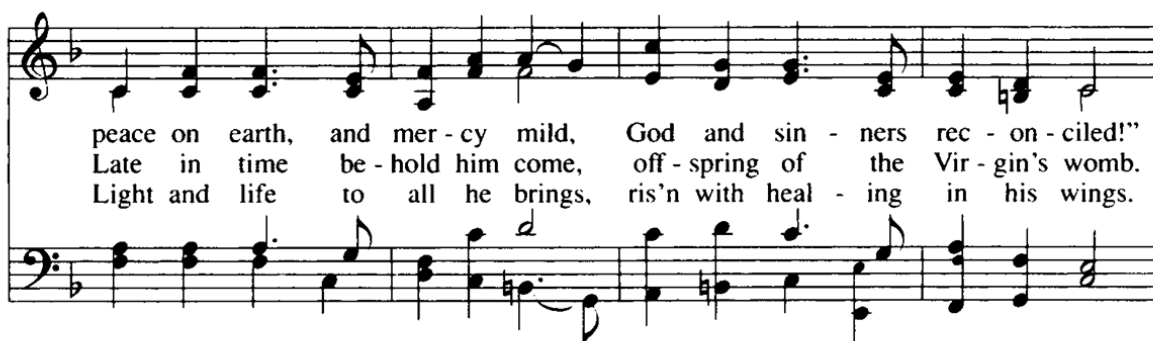
19th Cent., Arr. Daniel Burton

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

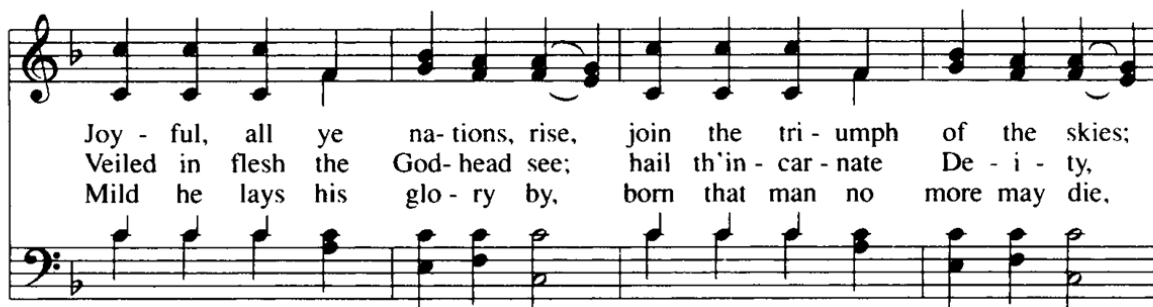
A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14



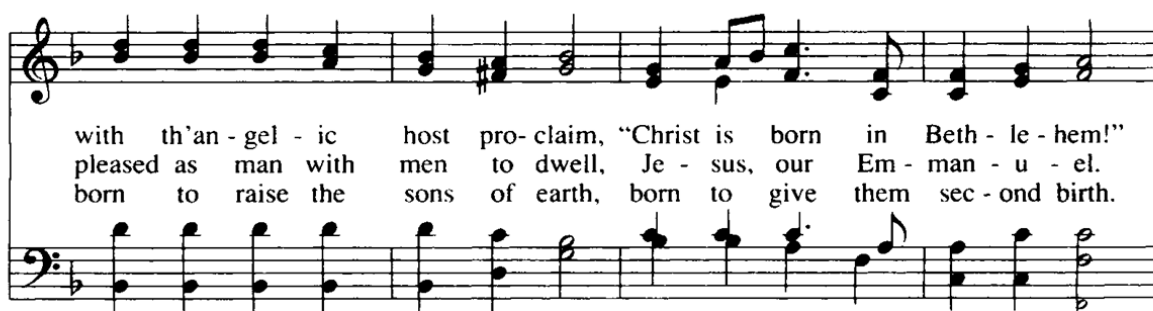
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

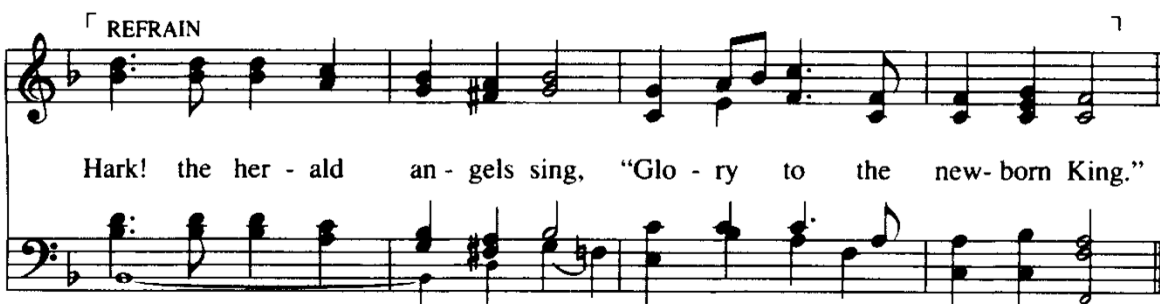


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

After listening to the king, they went on their way.

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

CHORAL ANTHEM "The Journey"

Lyrics by Carol M. Hodge, Music by Lloyd Larsen

NINTH LESSON**John 1:1-14**

The apostle 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 in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:16

Capo 1: ♭ B♭(A)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

THE COLLECT

Leader: Let us pray together

All: Almighty God, God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. On this night you have made us glad with the remembrance of the birth of your only Son. Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, we may, with sure confidence, behold him, when he comes to be our judge. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(*Extinguishing of the Candles*)

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO BALLANTYNE!

We extend a special welcome to all of our visitors and invite you to join us for light refreshments following the service. You are also warmly invited to worship with us on Christmas Eve at our 6 p.m. service. Childcare will be provided.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

This beloved service can be traced to Truro, England where, on Christmas Eve of 1880, Bishop E.W. Benson put together the “little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church.” King’s College in Cambridge, England adapted this service and has held it continuously each Christmas Eve since 1918

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White points out, derive from the scriptures. “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ... ‘seen’ through the windows and words of the Bible.”

It is our earnest prayer that this evening’s service will inspire a joyous celebration of Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds to commemorate Christ’s first coming and as we are reminded of God’s people who long ago awaited the Messiah’s arrival.

If you have never considered the true meaning of Christmas, the claims of Jesus Christ, and what it means to come to Jesus for forgiveness of sins and eternal life, I would love to talk with you.

God bless and may you have a wonderful Christmas.

Dr. Mantle Nance, Pastor

BALLANTYNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9925 Providence Road West, Charlotte, NC 28277
www.ballantynepres.com

Weekly Services

Mid-week Prayer Meeting – Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship – 6 p.m.