



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18th, 2022
6:00 p.m.

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

Dr. Mantle Nance

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

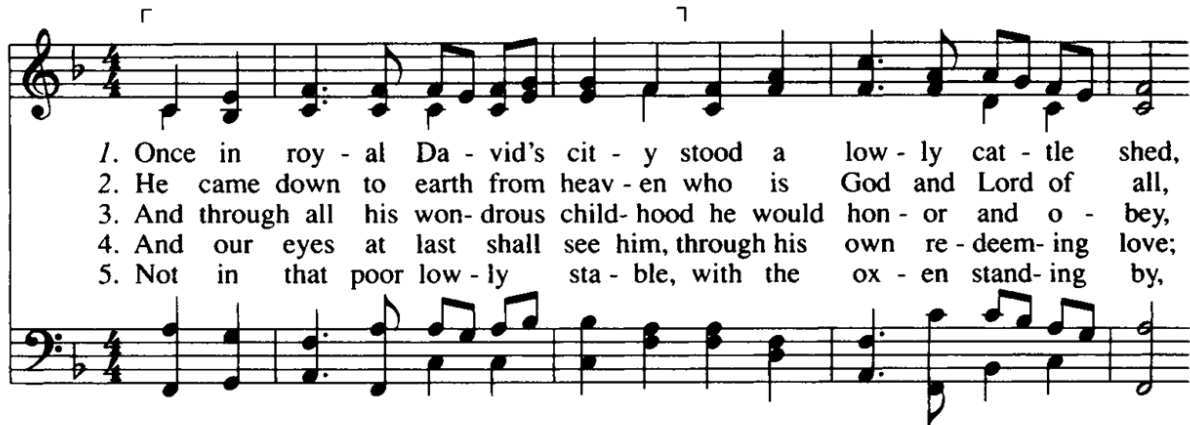
Leader: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let us listen anew to the message of the angels, and in heart and mind, go even to Bethlehem to see what has come to pass. As we await the great celebration of Christmas, we prepare our hearts that we may be shown its true meaning. We hear from the Holy 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

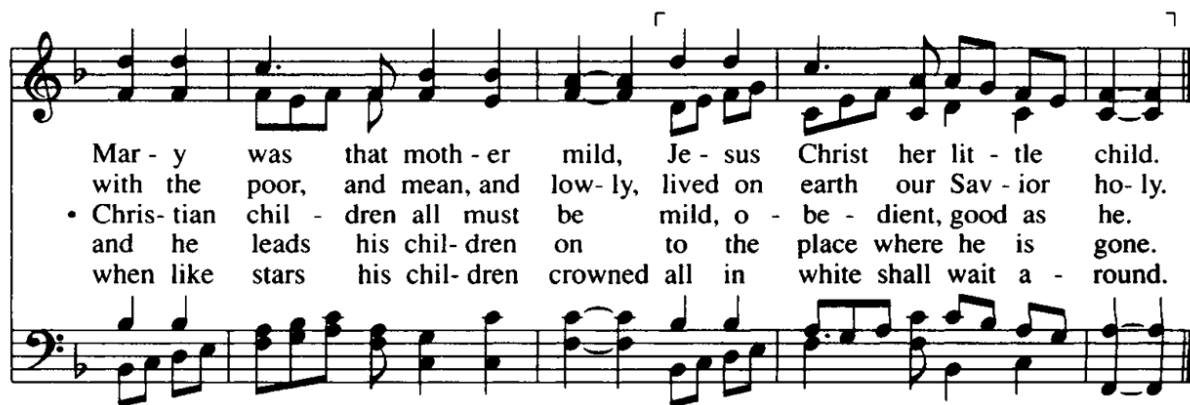
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12



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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Choral Anthem: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

J.S. Bach, setting by B. Culli

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly 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 pow'r of Satan breaking,

Our peace with God now making.

O dearest Child, whom I adore,

Whose grace surpasses measure,

My Brother, whom I cherish more

Than earth with all its treasure:

Haste from Thy manger to depart,

O come and dwell within my heart;

With joy will I receive Thee,

A cradle there will give Thee.

All blessing, thanks, praise to Thee,

Lord Jesus Christ be given:

Thou hast my brother deigned to be,

Thou Lord of earth and heaven.

Help me throughout this day of grace

To praise Thy love and seek Thy face;

And when I stand before Thee

Forever to adore Thee.

Amen.

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Of the Father's Love Begotten

*In the beginning was the Word.... The Word was made flesh ... and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father. John 1:1, 14 KJV*

Unison



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
 4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 • whom the Scrip-tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
 all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn, and chant, and high thanks- giv - ing, and un- wea- ried prais - es be,

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 • now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 • praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Instrumental Anthem "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

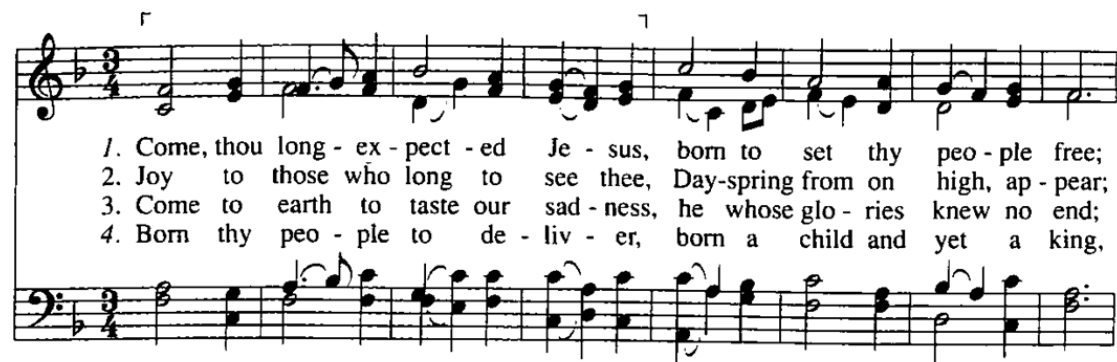
arr. C. McMichael

*Congregational Hymn

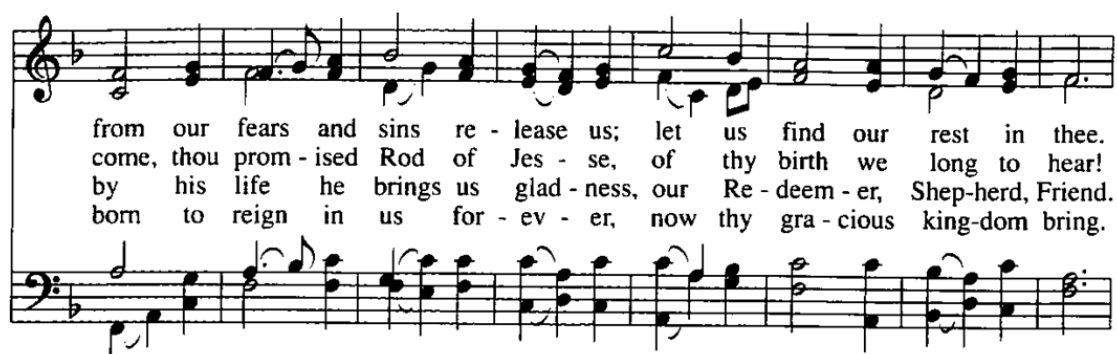
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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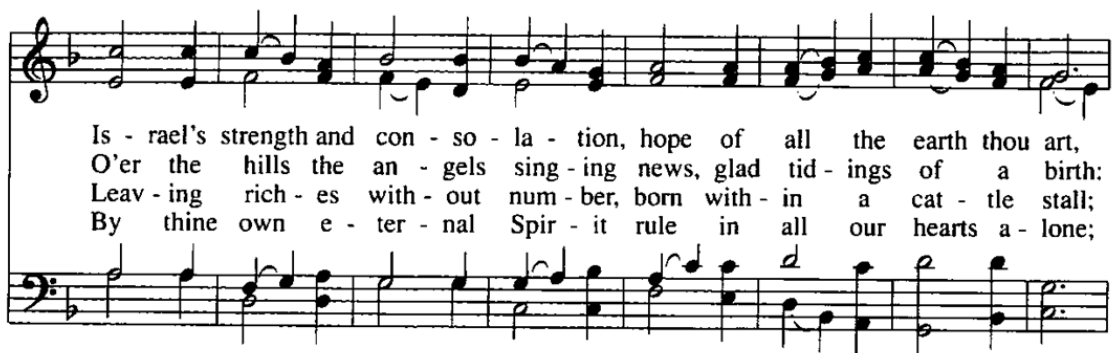
Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25



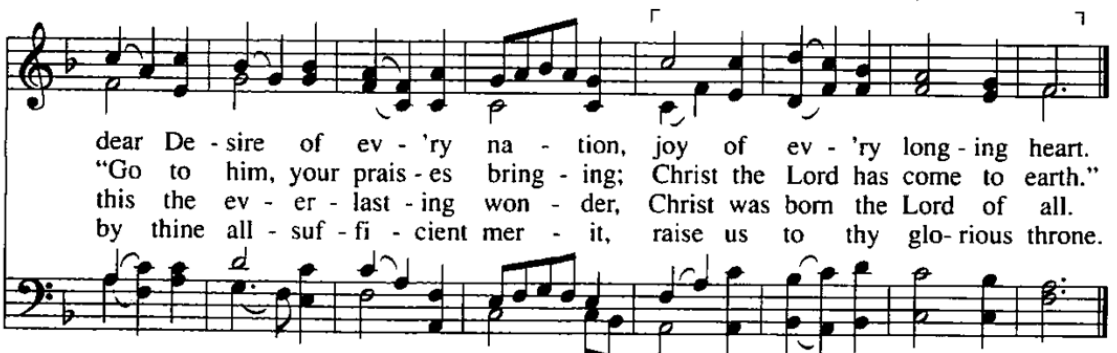
1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



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;



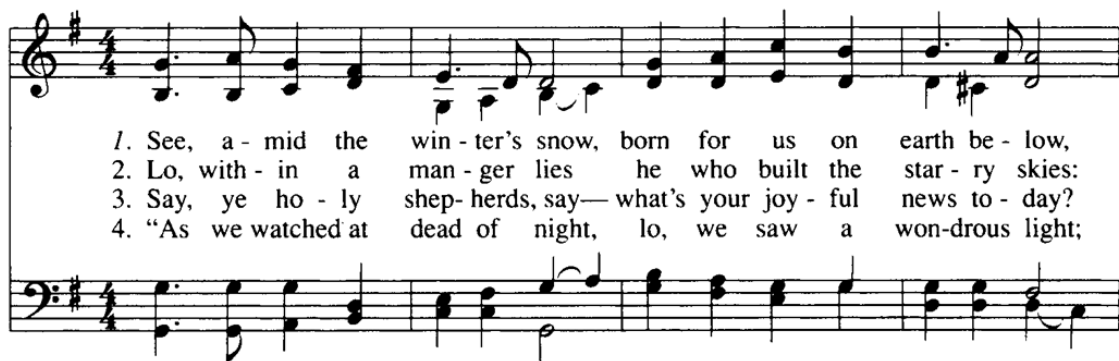
dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*Congregational Hymn

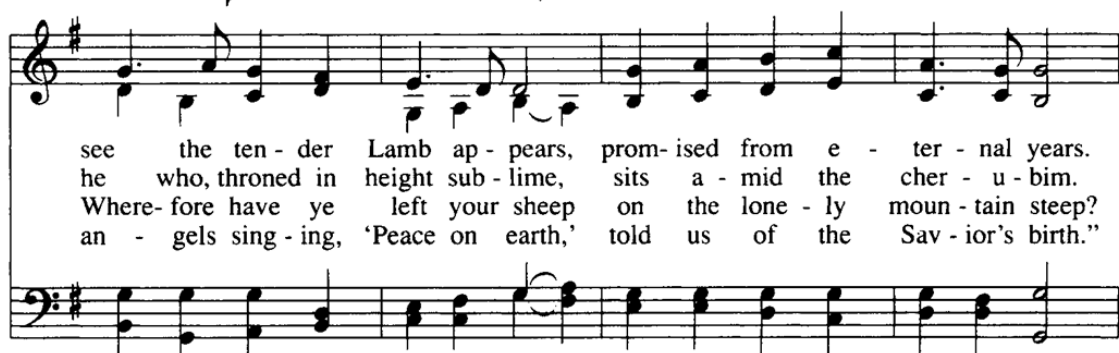
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See, amid the Winter's Snow

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ... being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself. Phil. 2:5, 8

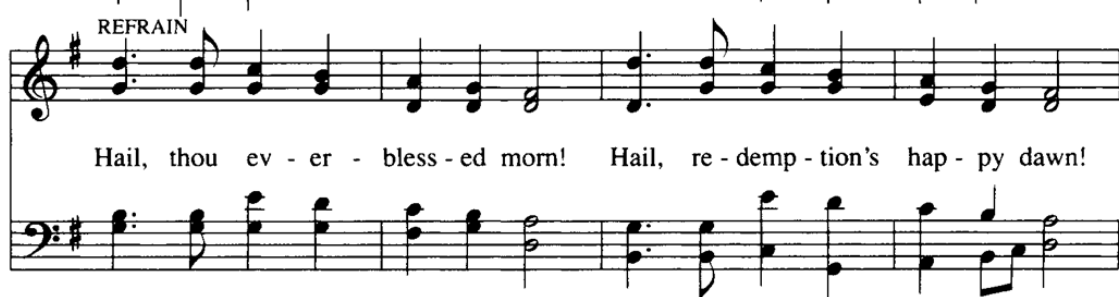


1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies:
 3. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say— what's your joy - ful news to - day?
 4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won-drous light;



see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 he who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
 an - gels sing - ing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."

REFRAIN



Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
 what a tender love was thine,
 thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!

6. Teach, O teach us, holy child,
 by thy face so meek and mild,
 teach us to resemble thee,
 in thy sweet humility.

*What sweeter music, can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav’nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

*Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn’d to May,
That sees December turn’d to May.*

*Why does the chilling winter’s morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:*

*Tis he is born, whose quick’ning birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under-earth.*

*We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show’rs,
Turns the patient ground to flow’rs,
Turns all the patient ground to flow’rs.*

*The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we fine a room
To welcome him, to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who’s our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.*

*What sweeter music, can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavn’ly King.*

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5: 2-4

Choral Anthem “The Christ Child’s Lullaby”

C. McClure

*My love, my joy, my pleasure, oh,
My wonder new and pleasure, oh,
My son, my beauty ever, oh,
Immanuel, my child, my King.*

*My little babe, the Lord of all,
Your bed shall be a manger stall;
Then, at your feet the world shall fall,
Immanuel, my child, my King.*

*God’s angels shall announce your birth,
And share the news with songs of mirth,
That God has come to swell on earth,
Immanuel, my child, my King.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Instrumental Anthem “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Choral Anthem “Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven”

Keith & Kristin Getty

*Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby, under a wondrous star.
Like us, crying he takes His first breath,
held by his mother, helpless,
close to her beating heart.*

*Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers,
come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God.*

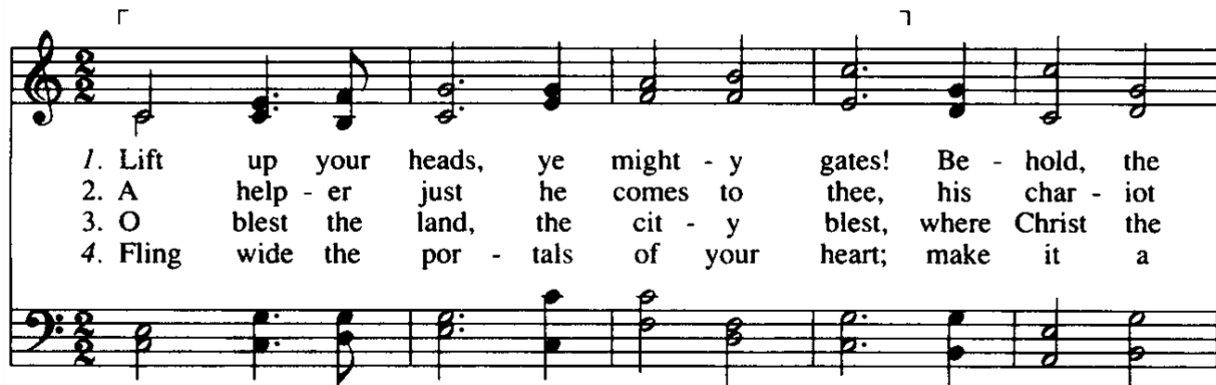
*Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take his first steps that He might bring us life.
Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows,
He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right.*

*Jesus, take away ev’ry darkness; steady my simple footsteps
that I might in Your goodness live as a child of God.*

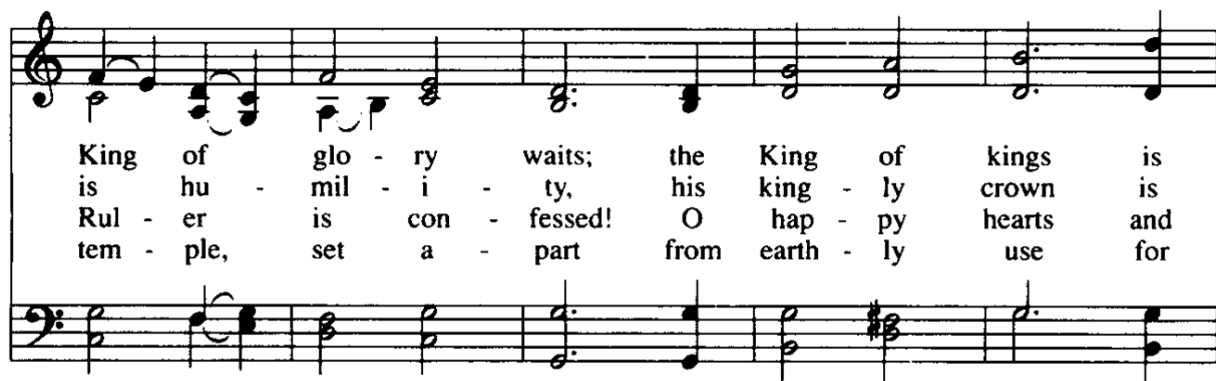
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

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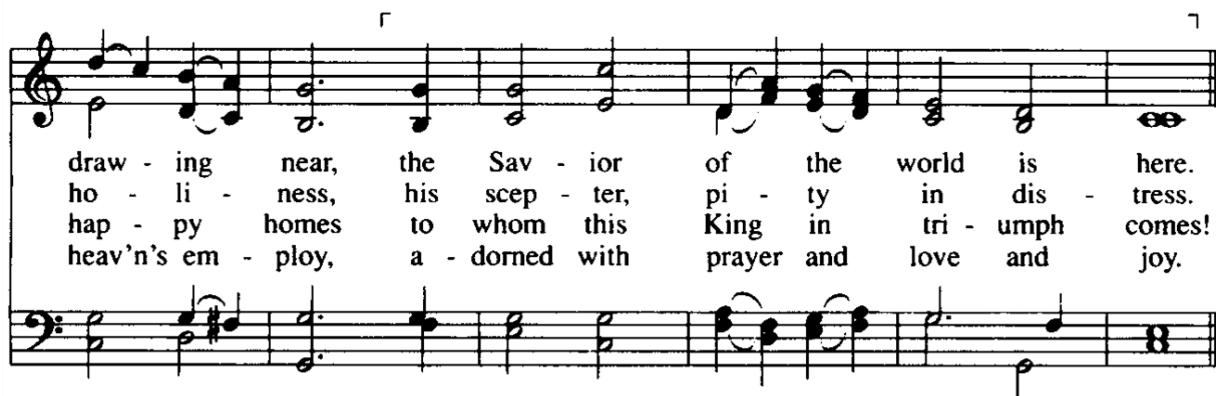
Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.
6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Choral Anthem “Kind Joseph”

K. Lee Scott

*Kind Joseph was a good man who lived in Galilee;
he had promised to marry Mary; his wife she was to be.
Before they came together she was found to be with child;
a most gently holy baby, our Savior, sweet and mild.*

*As Joseph thought things over, an angel to him said
in a dream while he lay sleeping, an angel of the Lord:
“Fear not to marry Mary; her blest child will be a son;
he is from the Holy Spirit the Ever blessed one.*

*“You shall call his name, ‘Jesus,” our Savior and our friend;
this child will save his people from their sorrow and their sin.”
This fulfills the ancient promise: God comes down with us to dwell;
a son to us is given, the Lord, Immanuel.*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. Rev. 17:14

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep-ing: shep-herds keep-ing vig - il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

Instrumental Anthem "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

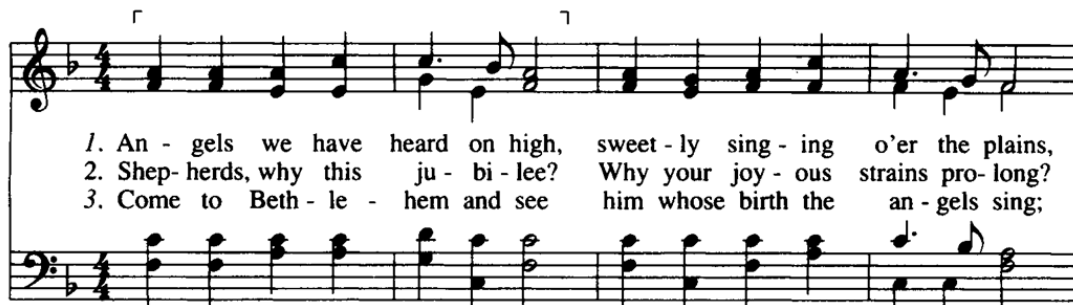
*Congregational Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

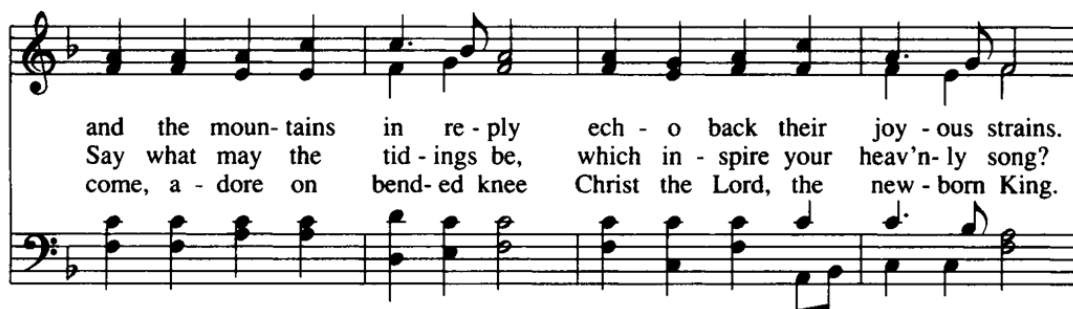
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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



REFRAIN
Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11

Choral Anthem “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” F. Mendelssohn, arr. D. Forrest

*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 triumphs of the skies,
With 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 time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh 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!”*

NINTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

HOMILY

Dr. Mantle Nance

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) ♭ F⁷(E⁷) ♭ B♭(A) ♭ E♭(D)

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!

♭ B♭(A) ♭ E♭(D) ♭ B♭(A)

♭ F⁷(E⁷) ♭ B♭(A) ♭ F⁷(E⁷) ♭ B♭(A) ♭

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24th, 6 p.m.

WEEKLY SERVICES AT BPC

Wednesday Prayer Meetings, 6 p.m.

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

WELCOME TO BALLANTYNE PRESBYTERIAN

We extend a special welcome to all 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