

Lessons & Carols

6:30p

December 17, 2023

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONOVER, NC

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THE OPENING PROCESSION
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Derek K. Hakes

We stand.

THE OPENING PRAYER

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, may it be at this Christmas-tide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child: and let us make this Sanctuary glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us pray to God for the needs of the whole world, and all His people; for peace upon the earth He came to save; for love and unity within the one Church He did build; for brotherhood and goodwill amongst all men.

And particularly at this time let us remember before Him the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven; in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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 and ever. Amen**

**P The Almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys
of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.**

C Amen.



THE OPENING HYMN “Once in Royal David’s City” 376

Stanza 1 – Solo, All sing stanza 2-4

Soloist: Caroline McClure

Solo: 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 heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and

sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.

Text and tune: Public domain

We sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

THE ANTHEM

“The Bells of Christmas”

The Sacred Harp

The bells of Christmas ring once more;
The heav’nly guest is at the door.
He comes to early dwellings still
With new year gifts of peace, goodwill.
This world, though wide and far outspread,
Could scarcely find for him a bed.
His cradle was a manger stall,
No pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

Now let us go with quiet mind,
The swaddled babe with shepherds find,
To gaze on him who gladdens them,
The loveliest flow’r of Jesse’s stem.
Oh, join with me to keep Christmas with our king,
Until our son, from loving souls,
Like rushing mighty water rolls!

O patriarch’s Joy, O prophet’s Song;
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
Great David’s Son, great David’s Lord:

Come Jesus, glorious heav’nly guest,
And keep your Christmas in our midst;
Then David’s harp strings, hushed so long,
Shall swell our jubilee of song.
Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
To keep our Christmas with our king;
Then David’s harp strings, hushed so long,
Shall swell our jubilee or song!

“God Loves Me Dearly”

arr. John Reim

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I’ll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness,
God's love was working to make me free.
Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus, and set me free.
Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Jesus my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.
Therefore I'll say again, God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

THE ANTHEM

“Were You There on That Christmas Night” Natalie Sleeth

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night
When the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold
Came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King
With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud
At His birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of Angels sang
At the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of Heaven rang
All through the night?

Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
The salvation of the world begun?
Did you know it was love, that was sent from above

To the earth?

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born”

G.F. Handel, arr. Pugh

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 might God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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Choir sings stanza 3.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
Choir: 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

THE FOURTH LESSON

St. Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

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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 a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.

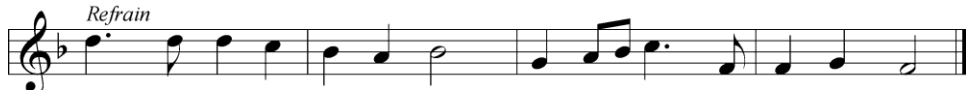


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - 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!”

Text and tune: Public domain

THE ANTHEM

“Christmas Joy”

“The First Noel”

“Fum, Fum, Fum”

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

arr. Cathy Moglebust

arr. Valerie Stephenson

THE FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke 2:1, 3-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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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 child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text and tune: Public domain

THE SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

THE ANTHEM

“Gloria in Excelsis”

Allen Pote

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

Bonae, bonae, bonae voluntatis.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

Shepherds were watching their flocks by night.

When suddenly an angel appeared.

“Be not afraid,” said the angel to them.

“For I bring you good news, good new of great joy.

For unto you a Savior is born.”

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.
Bonae, bonae, bonae voluntatis.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

The angels sang and the heavens rang.
Glory to God in the highest.
Peace and good will to all people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.
Bonae, bonae, bonae voluntatis.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

St. Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

THE ANTHEM

“Born ‘Neath a Star”

Cynthia Gray

Born ‘neath a star was a child so small
With no shelter o’er but a drafty stall;
Yet He’d be known as the “Lord of All,”
Born beneath a star that night.

Led by a star was a shepherd boy,
After angels told him of wondrous joy;
Sent down to earth as a baby boy,
Born beneath a star that night.

And love filled the earth
At the news of the Christ Child’s birth,
And hope did abound
That through Him peace would be found.

Born ‘neath a star was a child so small
With no shelter o’er but a drafty stall;
Yet He’d be known as the “Lord of All,”
Born beneath a star that night.

Led by a star were the wise men three,
Trav’ling miles and miles, the young child to see;
Bringing Him gifts, for a king He’d be,

Born beneath a star that night.
 Under the star of the Christmas tree,
 We still share the joy of that ancient eve
 When Christ was born, the “King of Peace,”
 Born beneath a star that night.

We stand.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

St. John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

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