

Order of Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent: Lessons & Carols
December 8, 2019
Gathering and Preparation

Announcements

Prelude and Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Opening Words The Rev. Stan Reid

Nine Lessons and Carols was instituted by the first Bishop of Truro-
in Cornwall, England on Christmas Eve in 1880.

It is a traditional liturgy in scripture and song-
that follows the centuries long story of humankind-
from God's Creation to the promise of the Messiah,
and the birth of Jesus.

Through nine scripture readings and the singing-
of Christmas carols and hymns,
we proclaim God's Word in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

All through the world, parishioners will participate in Word and song-
in similar celebrations this week through Christmas Eve.

Our efforts will fall short of the more famous performances-
Held each year in King's College-
in Cambridge, England on Christmas Eve;

But, we are humbled and pleased to offer up our prayers and praise-
on this 2nd Sunday of Advent.

As we did last year, we will compress our usual traditions of worship-
into the initial portion of the service, to include the offering,
so it is a change of pace for us all.

Please note our request for your participation throughout the service:
At the end of each scripture reading,
you will be prompted by the reader: "The Word of the Lord."

Please respond each time in unison: "Thanks be to God."

Also, note that you will remain seated-
until the reading of the Last Lesson from the *Gospel of John*,
so please stand and remain standing as you are able at that time.

And, now let us worship God.

Call to Worship (from *Psalms* 96)

Please turn to our Call to Worship

Leader: **Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

People: **Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Leader: **Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.**

People: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.**

Leader: **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.**

People: **Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.**

Leader: **God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity and truth.**

All: Praise the Lord!

Our Approach to God

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *Peace* (Purple candle) *Jack & Tempie Perry*

Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer The Rev. Stan Reid

Let us pray.

**Beloved in Christ, during this Christmastide it is our delight-
to prepare our hearts and minds to hear again the message-
which came from angels, as we go even unto Bethlehem-
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.**

**Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture-
the tale of the loving purposes of God-
from the first days of the disobedience of humankind
And on to the glorious Redemption brought us by Jesus Christ:
to them we bring God's Word with our carols of praise.**

**But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth;
for love and unity within the one Church, which Christ came to build;
and for respect and goodwill among all his people-
and especially in this city, this community, this presbytery-
and our state and nation.**

**And, we must remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry,
and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn,
the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children;
all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who fail to love Him,
As we have grieved Him and Almighty God because of it.**

**Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore, and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,**

whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom,
in Christ Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven,
and pray for forgiveness of our sin before God and one another-
in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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, the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen

Offering, Offertory, and Prayer

Invitation

All that we have is gift from God.
We offer ourselves in gratitude with a willing heart.
Let us bring to God a tithe and an offering.

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, We offer to You- that which is yours.
Use our gifts for the purposes of your kingdom -
and to your endless glory, which we proclaim this day.
We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

The Lessons & Carols

Each reading concludes with the words: “The Word of the Lord.”

*Please **reply in unison**: “Thanks be to God.” Please **remain seated** until the 9th Lesson.*

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve disobey God, disrupting God’s Creation.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, 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?”

He (the man) said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

He (God) said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from 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 from 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 tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon 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 hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” And to the man, he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: #44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

God will bless all people of the world through Abraham.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: #5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" PICARDY

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people walk in darkness, but receive the promise: A Messiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL CMD

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9***The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse.***

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.*****Carol:** #12 "People, Look East"

BESANÇON

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38*An angel appears to 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 whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear 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 to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.*Thanks be to God.*

Carol: #31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged- and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.*Thanks be to God.*

Carol: #24 "Away in a Manger" CRADLE SONG

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16***Angels announce the birth of the Messiah to shepherds in the field.***

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.***

Carol: #23

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11***Magi from the East offer gifts to Jesus.***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
 “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
 “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary—his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.***

Carol: #53

“What Child Is this”

GREENSLEEVES

***Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14**

Please stand, as you are able for the reading from the *Gospel of John*.

***The Word of God becomes flesh and dwells among us,
full of Grace and Truth.***

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Closing Prayer** The Rev. Stan Reid

Let us pray.

O God, You offer us this yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so that we may, with sure confidence, behold him when we move into that time when we come to You face-to-face. And so, we give thanks to You for Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

***Carol:** #41

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS

***Benediction**

**And now, may Almighty God bless us through God's grace;
May Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and may the King of All
bring us into the fellowship of God's Spirit, forever. Amen**

Postlude

****All who are able, please stand. All carols are in the Presbyterian Blue Hymnal)***