

† A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS †
"Light Shines in the Darkness"
Christmas 2020



WELCOME

PRELUDE

On Christmas Night

James Engel

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

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

C Amen

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

P On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

OPENING HYMN *Sung by Lorelei & Audrey Heath* Once in Royal David's City

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.

*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 mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.*

All And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*from Psalm 98*)

P Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

P He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

P Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

P Let them sing before the Lord, for He comes.

HYMN

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

SOLO

Sung by Nora Podoll

What Child is This

READING

Titus 3:4-8

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
when down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
and all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL - Part I

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of

the house and lineage of David), ⁵to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of won'dring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL - Part II

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL - Part III

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

READING

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ²"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him...." ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

SOLO

Sung by Kate Marino

In the Bleak Midwinter

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Almighty God, You have committed to Your people the ministry of prayer. In this holy season, hear us as we pray for the needs around us, and grant that our hearts may be filled with Christmas peace and love:

P For Your holy Church throughout all the world, that Your abundant grace and truth would shine through us as the Good News of Jesus' birth is proclaimed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For Your people here and everywhere, that You would fill us with love for Your house, zeal in Your service, and joy in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the nations, that You would breathe on them the spirit of peace and understanding, and that those in authority would be inspired toward a true desire for the good of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For our schools, for our families, and for our communities, that we may be strengthened and encouraged through the gifts of Your Holy Spirit and guided in all we do by the light of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For those who are sick or in distress, that You would give hope to the weary, relief to the suffering, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and for those we remember before You now... (PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Light of life, we give thanks for those who have departed this world and now live with You in heavenly peace. Draw near to us in our times of sadness and give us a vision of the place You have prepared for all who love You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P These and all our prayers we commend to Your most gracious care through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

SOLO

Sung by Hannah Pitman

O Holy Night

GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

BENEDICTION

P The true light that gives light to every person has come into the world.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

POSTLUDE

Adeste Fideles

David Lasky

* * * * *

Many thanks to all our participants in the service:

Liturgy Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Scott Geminn, Associate Pastor

Organist Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

Lectors Jennifer Schell Podoll, Chris Gleason, Joshua Gleason

Singers Audrey Heath, Lorelei Heath, Nora Podoll, Kate Marino,
Hannah Pitman

Chapel School Choir, directed by George Heath

***We wish you a very Merry Christmas
and blessings in the New Year.***

POINSETTIAS in the church have been given by the following:

Joan & Christy Bevers

In memory Grace Blanck,
a loving mother and grandmother

Kathy Coffey

In memory of Frank Coffey and
Helen & Bill Messner

Daniel and Lydia Chao

Rose Ann DiGiovanni

In memory of Carol & Edward Raff

Ilse Koerper

In honor of family and other blessings

Marcia Kollmann

The Miro Family

In memory of Domenica LaSpisa

The Podszus Family

In memory of William G. Podszus, from his wife Louise and daughter Elaine

Deborah Reiss

In memory of my father Frederick Reiss and grandmother Nina Reiss Bargo

Bob Roberts

In memory of my wife Betty Ann Roberts

Virginia Stong

The Swain Family



WREATHS on the Great Porch have been sponsored by:

Joan and Christy Bevers

In memory of Glenn Bevers,
a loving husband and father

Katie Bukofzer

In memory of Vera Smith and
William Russell Whitney

The Murrer Family

In memory of Mary & Peter Ruman and
Alfred & Marion Murrer

Eileen and Joseph Wilkinson

In memory of Mommsen and
Wilkinson family members

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG