



A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 7
5:00PM



REDEEMER
REFORMATION
C H U R C H

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

7 December 2014 ~ 5:00PM

Leading in Worship: Rev. Brian Cochran

Accompaniment: Kari Groeneweg

~ **God Calls Us To Worship** ~

* **Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-4 & Galatians 4:4-5**

* **Prayer of Invocation**

* **God's Greetings: Revelation 1:4-5**

* **Opening Carol: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (#208)**

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. (refrain)

**O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the LORD!**

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten, not created. (refrain)

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God in the highest. (refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing. (refrain)

(*please stand if you are able)

~ **The Old Testament Prophecies of the Coming of Christ** ~

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

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.”

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (#214)

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. (refrain)

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song? (refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (refrain)

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

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.”

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (#196)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6-7

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

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

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (#194)

O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. (refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. (refrain)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (refrain)

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

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 origin 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. And he shall be their peace.

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (#201:1-2, 4)

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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

~ The New Testament Fulfillment of the Coming of Christ ~

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

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.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Carol: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (#221)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour,
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,
And lightens every load.

O Saviour, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Carol: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (#203)

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 the'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" (refrain)

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (refrain)

Hail the heav'nborn 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. (refrain)

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:1-16

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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. 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 fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Carol: "God Rest You Merry Gentleman" (#211)

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. (refrain)

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

From God, our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. (refrain)

"Fear not, then" said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Saviour of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might. (refrain)

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find. (refrain)

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Carol: "What Child is This?" (#213)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

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 any thing 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 enlightens 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.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Carol: "Joy to the World" (#195)

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, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, far as the curse is found,
Far as, 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, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

~ We Go Forth With Thanksgiving and Hope~

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Supplication

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Concluding Lesson: Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-5, 20

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. . .He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Minister: This is our blessed hope! Christ is coming again soon!

Congregation: Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

***Concluding Carol: "Silent Night" (#210:1-3)**

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14**

Prayer for Dinner

All are welcome to join us after the service for our Christmas Banquet.

About Our Festival of Lessons and Carols

Welcome to our fourth annual “Festival of Lessons and Carols” service. This historic service follows closely the pattern of the famous Christmas Eve celebration from King’s College Cambridge. Every year on Christmas Eve a festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is held in King’s College Chapel. The Festival was first introduced in 1919. It was later broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world every year. It is a service that engages our minds and grips our hearts as the drama of redemption is proclaimed to us from Genesis to Revelation. We hear the Scriptures read and briefly explained from nine passages, tracing the history of salvation. It begins with the promise of a Savior to Adam and Eve, moves to the promises announced to the Patriarchs and through the Prophets, culminates with the birth of the God-man in the Gospels and looks forward to his glorious return which will bring peace on earth. Between each Scripture lesson, we respond by singing sacred hymns, rich in theology, which exalt the person and work of Christ. We hope this service causes you to reflect with wonder and awe upon the great significance of the incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to trust in Him alone for salvation, and to look forward with hope to His second coming. Merry Christmas!

Thanks for visiting us this evening. We hope to see you again soon. Merry Christmas!

Service Times

Adult & Children's Sunday School: 10:00AM

Morning Worship Service: 11:00AM

Korean Language Worship Service: 2:30PM

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