

# THE LORD'S DAY

*Sunday, December 3, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
Lessons and Carols*

## The Welcome and Invocation

### Congregational Carol: "Once in Royal David's City" - #225

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.

(Women)

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.

(Men)

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

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,  
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

### Lesson 1 - Genesis 3:8 -19

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

### Choir: "Adam Lay Ybounden" ..... Words Anonymous, 15<sup>th</sup> C. English; Music by Douglas Green

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken, apple taken been,  
Ne had never our ladie a been heav'ne Queen.  
Blessed by the time that apple taken was.  
Therefore, we moun singen: Deo gratias!*

Paraphrase: Adam was captive for 4000 years for his original sin. If Adam had not eaten the apple in Eden, then the virgin Mary would not have been our heavenly queen. Blessed be Adam's eating the apple. Therefore we must sing "Thanks be to God."

### Lesson 2 - Genesis 22:15-18

*God Promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

### Congregational Hymn: "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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring 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.

**Lesson 3 - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

**Choir:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ..... Words 9<sup>th</sup> c. Music PISGAH/arr. Pamela Robertson

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, for Christ shall come to thee and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
O come, thou Wisdom from on high and order all things, far and nigh:  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrel cease; and fill the world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, for Christ shall come to thee and fill the world with heaven's peace.*

**Lesson 4 - Isaiah 11:1-9**

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

**Congregational 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 flow'ret 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 Savior, 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.

The 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 ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, 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.

**Lesson 5 - Luke 1:26-38**

*The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.*

**Choir:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" ..... Words by Marcus Aurelius & C. Prudentius, 4<sup>th</sup> c.  
Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM/arr. Lloyd Larson

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore.*

**Lesson 6 - Luke 2:1-7**

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

**Choir:** "The Stars Looked Down" ..... Poem by G.K. Chesterton/Music by Mark Schwizer

*The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, His hair was like a light.  
(O weary, weary were the world, but here is all a right.)  
The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast, His hair was like a star.  
(O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.)  
The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, His hair was like a fire.  
(O weary, weary is the world, but here, the world's desire.)  
The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee, His hair was like a crown.  
And all the flow'rs looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down.*

**Lesson 7 - Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**Choir:** "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" ..... Words by Paul Gerhardt/Music by Johann Ebeling

*All my heart this night rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices:  
"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing, 'til the air, ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.  
Hark! A voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, doth entreat, "Flee from woe and danger!  
Brethren, come from all doth grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."  
Come, then, let us hasten yonder! Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder!  
Love Him who with love is yearning! Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!*

**Lesson 8 - Matthew 2:1-11**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

**Brass Ensemble:** "I Saw Three Ships" ..... Traditional English Carol arranged by Luther Henderson

**Lesson 9 - John 1:1-14**

*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

**Choir:** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ..... Words and Music by Kathleen Thomerson  
Choral Setting by Mark Hayes

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.  
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)  
I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.*

**Congregational Hymn:** "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)

**The Closing Prayer**

**\*Invitation to Christmas Party**

# Grace Music Team:

Cliff Taylor, Director  
Seth Matlock, Piano

## Brass Ensemble:

Matt Blaylock, Brielle Fitzkee, Joshua Nolen, Jacob Krance & Clifton Taylor, Trumpets  
James Chalmers & Evelyn Taylor, Horns  
Matthew Carter & Max Young, Trombones  
Wynn Oakley & Chapel Rainer, Euphoniums

## Choir:

Gabi Bobadilha  
Lucas Collinsgru  
Sam Dupre  
Lisa Dye  
Claire Fitzkee  
Elise Fitzkee  
Jen Fitzkee  
Nick Fitzkee  
Cameron Fowler  
Ben Green  
Joshua Hamner  
Claire Hatfield  
Erica Link  
Nathan Logan  
Sarah McDonnell  
Dylan Meeks  
Erika Nguyen  
Mary Petersen  
Evelyn Taylor  
Charlotte Taylor  
Clifton Taylor  
Tristan Trice  
Drew Wigginton  
Ben Wilkinson