

A Celebration of Lessons and Carols



The Nativity, Gustave Dore

December 26, 2021

Opening Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin, 18th century

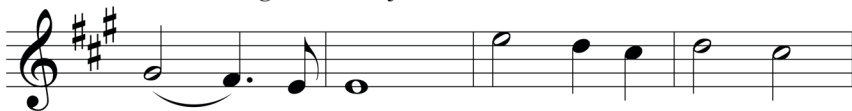
J. F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -
2. O sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul -
3. ‡ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py



um - phant, O come, ye, O come ye to
ta - tion! O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of
morn - ing, O Je - sus, to Thee be all



Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him,
heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,



born the King of an - gels!
glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a -
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



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



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

Greeting and Opening Prayer

First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:8–15.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool[c] of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"[d] 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 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."

14 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.

15
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring[e] and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel."

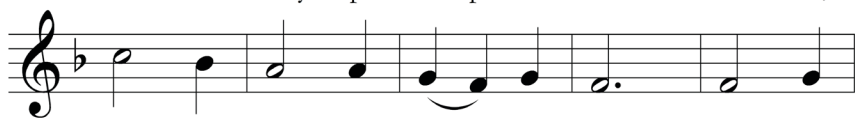
Hymn: Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

Rowland Hugh Prichard



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,



born to set Thy peo - ple free; from our
born a Child and yet a King, born to



fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our
reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious



rest in Thee. Is - rael's Strength and Con - so -
King - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal



la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
by Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it



Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Second Lesson

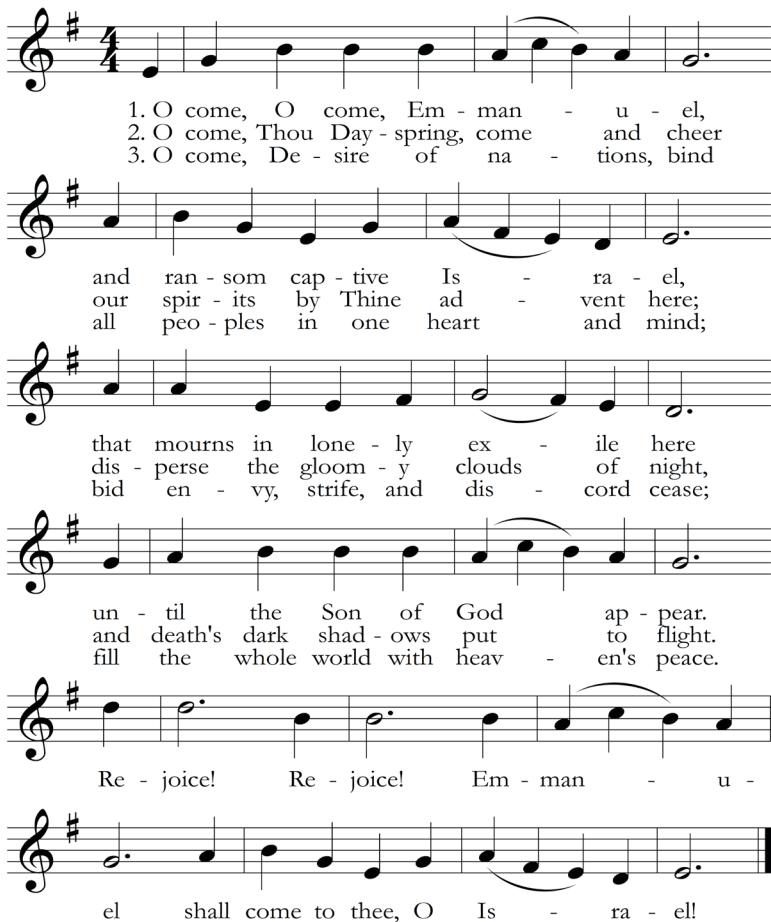
God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22:15-18.

15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 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[d] enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin c. 12th century

Plainsong (Mode I), 13th century



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 our spir - its by Thine ad - vent here;
 all peo - ples in one heart and mind;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord cease;

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -

el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Third Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. Isaiah 9:2,6-7.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon[d] his shoulder,
and his name shall be called[e]
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

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.

Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears

Richard Storrs Willis



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
3. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by



glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heav'n - ly
proph - et bards fore - told, when with the ev - er -



near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
cir - cling years come round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its



heav'n's all - gra - cious King:" The world in sol - emn
bend on hov - ring wing, and ev - er o'er its
an - cient splen - dors fling, and the whole world give



still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Fourth Lesson

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. Micah 5:2-4.

2

[c] 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 coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

3

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.

4

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.



Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

Lewis Redner



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de -



still we see thee lie; a - bove thy deep and
 gath - ered all a - bove, while mor - tals sleep, the
 won - drous Gift is giv'n! So God im - parts to
 scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and



dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heav'n.
 en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er -
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er pro - claim the
 No ear may hear His com - ing, but in this
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad



last - ing Light; the hopes and fears of
 ho - ly birth; and prais - es sing to
 world of sin, where meek souls will re -
 ti - dings tell; O come to us, a -



all the years are met in thee to - night.
 God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 ceive Him, still the dear Chrst en - ters in.
 bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary. Luke 1:26–38.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed[b] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"[c] 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"[d]

35 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[e] will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant[f] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Sixth Lesson

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus. Matthew 1:18–23.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ[e] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed[f] to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 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. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

Hymn: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th century

English melody, 18th century



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let
2. From God our heav'n - ly, Fa - ther, a
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all



noth - ing you dis - may, re - mem - ber Christ our
bless - ed an - gel came; and un - to cer - tain
noth - ing you af - fright; this day is born a
you with - in this place, and with true love and



Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day; to
shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same; how
Sav - ior of a pure Vir - gin bright, to
broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace; this



save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were
that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of
free all those who trust in Him from Sa - tan's
ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers



gone a - stray.
God by name. O ti - dings of
pow'r and might."
doth de - face.



com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy; O



ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2:8-16.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14
"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"[d]

15 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." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.



The Ministry of Angels, Gustave Dore

Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

Felix Mendelssohn



1. Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the



to the new - born King; peace on earth, and
Ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -
Sun of Right - eous - ness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
hold Him come to the earth from heav-en's home;
all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that man no



of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim,
De - i - ty, pleased as man with men to swell,
more may die, born to raise the sons of earth,



"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el. Hark, the her-ald
born to give them sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose[b] and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6

"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."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 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. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 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.

Ninth Lesson

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life,[a] and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own,[b] and his own people[c] did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[d] from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn: Joy to the World

Psalm 98

Isaac Watts

Georg Friedrich Handel



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let
 2. Joy to the world! The Sav - ior reigns: let
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and



earth re - ceive her King; let ev - 'ry
 men their songs em - ploy; while fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries



heart pre - pare Him room, and heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the
 make His bless - ings flow far as the
 of His right - eous - ness, and won - ders



na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 curse is found, far as the curse is found,
 of His love, and won - ders of His love,



and heav - en, and heav - en and na - ture sing,
 re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 far as, far as the curse is found.
 and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Blessing and Benediction

Recessional: Go Tell It on the Mountain

John Work II

Negro spiritual

Go, tell it on the moun-tain o-ver the hills and
ev - 'ry - where; go, tell it on the
moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Michael Hansen, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Michael Morris, Assistant Pastor/Director of Student Ministries

Lance Hargis, Director of Music

Dustin Fike, Director of Contemporary Music

Dr. Ron Hough, Organist

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to produce authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who...

embrace biblical truth

embody Christian love

impart His gospel to the world

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Passionate evangelism

Biblical community

Godly servant leadership

World missions

Authentic worship

Effectual fervent prayer

Strong families

Warm fellowship



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