

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2020

Carol: CH 270 v 1, 4 Joy to the World

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

People: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. (from Isaiah 9:2, 6; John 1:4, 5, 14)

Carol: CH 249 v 1, 2 O Come All Ye Faithful

The King Will Come from Bethlehem

Lesson Micah 5:2, 5a

The LORD says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." And he will be our peace.

Carol: CH 250 O Little Town Of Bethlehem

The Message to Mary

Carol: CH 266 v 1, 2 That Beautiful Name

Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 37-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸The

angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, can this be?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. ³⁷For there is nothing that God cannot do." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Carol: CH 281 What Child Is This

The Birth of Jesus

Christ Candle is Lit

All: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor 9:15)

Carol: CH 251 v1, 2 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Lesson Luke 2:1-7

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ²When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. ³Everyone, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. ⁴Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. ⁵He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, ⁶and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. ⁷She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Carol: CH 262 Away in a Manger

The Shepherds Go to See the Savior

Carol: CH 272 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Lesson Luke 2:8-20

⁸ There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰ but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! ¹² And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

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

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. ¹⁹ Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Meditation: Advent Fruit

Carol: CH 265 v1, 2, 6 The First Noel

The Mystery of the Incarnation

Lesson John 1:1-14

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² From the very beginning the Word was with God. ³ Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. ⁴ The Word was the source of life,^[a] and this life brought light to people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

⁶ God sent his messenger, a man named John, ⁷ who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the

light. ⁹ This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

¹⁰ The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. ¹³ They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

¹⁴ The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

Carol: CH 253 Silent Night