



A Christmas Festival of
**NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

The Cantata Choir of St. John's
Jubilation Ringers
Dana Shinneman, Piano
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music

PRELUDE
BELL TOLL
CHOIR PROCESSIONAL

A HODIE PROCESSIONAL

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus passus est. Hodie Christus crucifixus est.
Today Christ is born; Today Christ suffered; Today Christ was crucified.

Please stand

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our parish community of St. John's.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven; in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**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.**

Please sit

L A reading from Genesis, the third chapter.

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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵I 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

E'EN SO LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him, who frees us from our sins.
 Who loves us all and shed his blood, that we might saved be.*

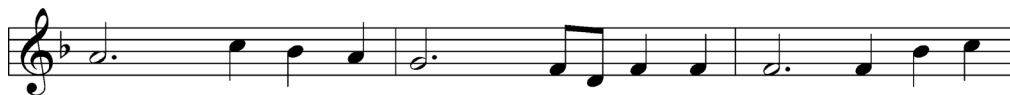
CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Bruce W. Becker, 1952

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THE SECOND LESSON

Proclaimed by Mark Behnke

Genesis 22: 15-18

L A reading from Genesis, the twenty-second chapter.

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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 seed shall possess the gates of his enemies, and in your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed my voice.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Jubilation Ringers

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

arr. Kathleen Wissinger

THE THIRD LESSON

Proclaimed by Sherrie Smith

Isaiah 9: 5-7

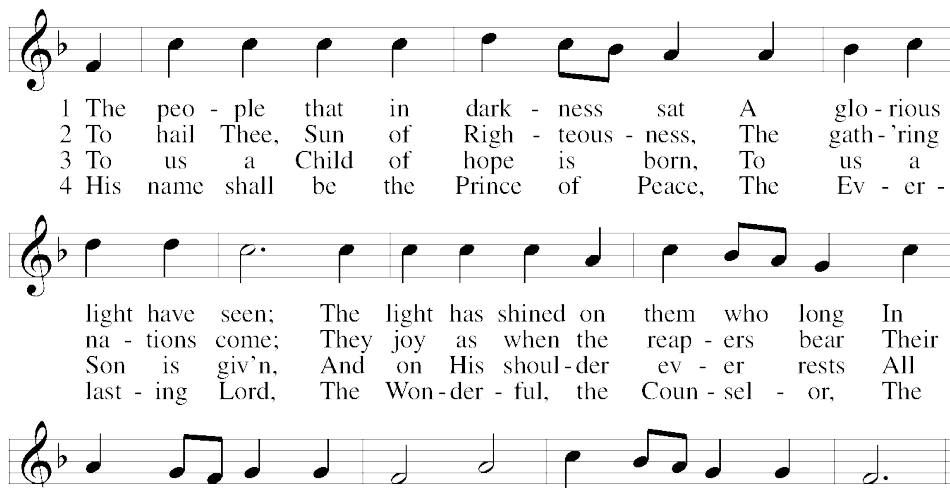
L A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

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. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Proclaimed by Art Schroeder

L A reading from Isaiah, the eleventh chapter.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

LO, HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

Proclaimed by Kristen Stapleton

Luke 1:26-38

L A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

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

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

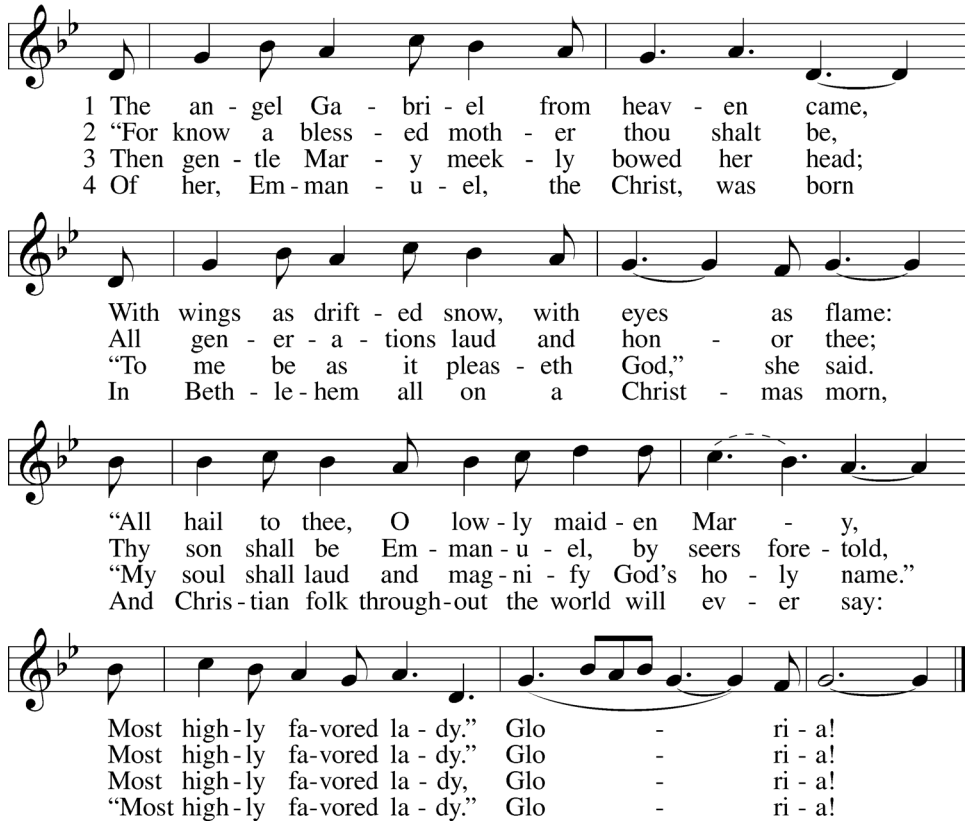
³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Proclaimed by Chris Kirchenburg

Luke 2: 1-7

L A reading from Matthew, the first chapter.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Jubilation Ringers

AWAY IN A MANGER
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL
arr. Patricia A. Sanders

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

Proclaimed by Bruce Smith

L A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And 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,

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

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?

Mack Wilberg (b.1955)

*How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is he within?*

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12

Proclaimed by Mary Grether

L A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

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, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC

John Rutter (b.1945)

*What sweeter music can we bring that a carol,
for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

Stand

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Proclaimed by Pastor Mark Stapleton

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE CLOSING COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, Judge and King, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace to all the places of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give us the gift of Yourself; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

Sit

CAROL

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Philip Stopford (b.1977)

*May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
the worship of the wisemen and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.*



THANK YOU

Below is a partial list of our generous donors who have contributed throughout the year to our Music Fund, which sustains the music ministry's ongoing efforts to present the highest quality sacred choral and instrumental music for the benefit of our congregation and the local community.

Margery Bobysud, Sharon Broz, Charles & Marilyn Ferro, Mary Grether, Martin & Cheryl Haugen, Richard & Karen Herman, Lynn Kahl, Rev. Dr. Stephen & Nancy Knapp, Andrew & Susan Kunz, Peggy Medeiros, Ken & Raelynn Miller, Beverlyn O'Connor, James & Barbara Paulsen, Nancy Pilarczyk, Marsha Poppie, Teena Rimmele, Clarice Rudolph, Gertrude Salvino, Arthur Schroeder, Cheryl Schultz, Alice Sekal, Bill Spicer, Laverna Stapleton, Marilyn Strombom