A

Festival of Readings and Carols For Christmas

**January 6, 2019**

Prelude:

Welcome

Prepare for worship

**\* Indicates to stand**

# “Oh Come, all ye Faithful”

1. 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;

2. The highest, most holy light of eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

*Refrain*

O Come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

\*The Bidding Prayer

P Beloved in Christ, we come to this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and to go in heart and mind even unto Bethlehem, to see the loving-kindness of our God and the Babe lying in a manger.

 Let us, therefore, open the Holy Scripture and read the earliest tale of that disobedience to God’s holy will, which is common to us all: and then the story of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, to save us from our sins and to make us pure and happy; and let us thank Him with our carols of praise:

 But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world, and especially for peace and goodwill among all peoples, that we may learn to love one another, as children of one God and Father of all:

 And because this would most rejoice His heart, let us remember before Him the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart:

 Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none of us can number, with whom in this Lord, we forevermore are one:

 These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven
in the words Christ Himself has taught us:

**First Lesson**

 God announces in the Garden of Eden the
 seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head

  Reading *Genesis 3:8-15*

 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and
between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you
will strike his heel.”

**“Of the Father's Love Begotten” (Solo)**

 **Second Lesson**

 Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah

 Reading *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned. For to us, a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

 **Video – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel “**

**Third Lesson**

The prophet announces the birth place of the savior

  Reading *Micah 2-4*

 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore Israel will
be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and
the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and
shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the
name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his
greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1 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.

2 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 all the earth!

4 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;

 oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

 **Fourth Lesson**

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

 Reading *Matthew 1:18-25*

 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary
was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to
public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

 “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they
will call him Immanuel” — which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing” (Solo)**

**Fifth Lesson**
St. Luke tells of the birth of the Christ child

Reading *Luke 2:1-7*

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

### Video – “God is With Us”

 **Sixth Lesson**

The shepherds are told of the birth of Jesus

 Reading *Luke 2:8-12*

 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

 “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

“Infant **Holy, Infant Lowly”**

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,

 for his bed a cattle stall;

 oxen lowing, little knowing

 Christ the child is Lord of all.

 Swiftly winging, angels singing,

 bells are ringing, tidings bringing:

 Christ the child is Lord of all!

 Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping

 vigil till the morning new

 saw the glory, heard the story,

 tidings of a gospel true.

 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,

 praises voicing, greet the morrow:

 Christ the child was born for you!

 Christ the child was born for you!

**Seventh Lesson**

The angels proclaim peace and the shepherds go to the manger

 Reading *Luke 2:13-20*

 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone 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 about.”

 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who
was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,

 "Glory to the newborn king;

 peace on earth, and mercy mild,

 God and sinners reconciled."

 Joyful, all you nations, rise;

 join the triumph of the skies;

 with angelic hosts proclaim,

 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

 Hark! The herald angels sing,

 "Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,

 Christ, the everlasting Lord,

 late in time behold him come,

 offspring of a virgin's womb.

 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

 Hail, incarnate deity!

 Pleased as man with us to dwell,

 Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,

 "Glory to the newborn king

**Eighth Lesson**

St. John describes the mystery of the incarnation

 Reading *John 1:1-5, 14,16-17*

 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made.

 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. From the fullness of his grace, we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

“ **O Come All Ye Faithful”**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God…..in …the highest:

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

*Refrain*

O Come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**Ninth Lesson**

 St. John exhorts us to love one another

 Reading *I John 4:7-11*

 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Video – “Peace on Earth” by Casting Crowns**

  **Nicene Creed (stand)**

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated**

**at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
 from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is
 worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

 **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge
 one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection
 of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors.*

**Offering–**

*As we continue with our offering, please sign the attendance book located at the end of each pew. Guests and visitors, please include your address and phone number.*

**Presentation of the Gifts**

*Please rise, as you are able, while the gifts are brought forward.*

**Offering Hymn Create in Me A Clean Heart ELW 185**

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**Offering Prayer**

L: Holy God,

**A: your beauty shines forth from the manger**

**and your love flows from the cross.**

**As you gather us around these signs**

**Of your love come among us,**

**Warm us to extend your care**

**Among the hungry and all in need.**

**In Jesus’ name, we pray.**

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**A: 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.**

### “Joy to the World”

1 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.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

 Let all their songs employ,

 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

 repeat the sounding joy,

 repeat the sounding joy,

 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.

4 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.

**SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS**

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

L: God the Creator who delights in you,

Jesus the Savior who is born for you,

and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you,

☩ bless you and keep you in hope and peace

**A: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L:Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

**A:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**