

Lessons and Carols
Fourth Week of Advent
"Bearer of Hope"

December 18, 2022

8:30 AM

Welcome to worship at St. Luke's. We value your participation in our worship service and feel truly blessed by your presence today. Everyone is invited to fill out a welcome card. Please note any prayer requests on the back of the card. They may be placed in the offering plate.

L = Leader C = Congregation ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (*red hymnal*)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Still, Still, Still"
Lori Murray

Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Rob)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (Al Buss)

L: We long for the presence of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us

C: Come Bearer of Hope

CANDLE LIGHTING

The fourth candle is lit and this response is used:

L: Love coming to earth to live among us full of grace and truth

C: Come Bearer of Hope

L: Do not be afraid: see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people

C: Christ, shine in our hearts today

SONG:

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW #715/Screen

Choir (Verse 4):

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone

All sing (Refrain):

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

+GREETING *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY (Britt Halaas)

L: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+OPENING HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"
Verses 1&3

ELW #269

Verse 1

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.

Verse 3

And our eyes in truth 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.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON {Pulpit} (Rob)

God promises a king - Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

ELW #282

Verses 1 & 4

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 4

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

LESSON {Lectern} (David Skinner)

The king will come from Bethlehem - Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

Verses 1 & 2

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

LESSON {Pulpit} (Rob)

The annunciation to Mary - Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Verse 1

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
 with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
 "All hail to thee, O Lowly maiden Mary,
 most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Verse 2

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
 all generations laud and honor thee;
 thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
 most highly favored lady." Gloria!

LESSON {*Lectern*} (David Skinner)*The birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still”
St. Luke’s Choir

*arr. Chris Biemesderfer*LESSON {*Pulpit*} (Rob)*The shepherds go to see the Savior - Luke 2:8-16*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL

“On Christmas Night”
Verses 1 & 3

ELW #274

Verse 1

On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring.
 On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring;
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 News of our merciful king's birth.

Verse 3

When sin departs before his face,
 Then life and health come in its place.
 When sin departs before his face,
 Then life and health come in its place.
 Angels rejoice with us and sing,
 All for to see the newborn king.

LESSON {*Lectern*} (David Skinner)*Jesus receives his name - Luke 2:21-36*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

CAROL

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

ELW #297

Verse 1 (2 times)

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
 Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
 New life, new hope the child will bring.
 Listen to the angels sing:
 "Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

LESSON {Pulpit} (Rob)

The magi follow the star - Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

"What Child is This?"

ELW #296

Verse 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

LESSON {Lectern} (David Skinner)

The slaughter of the holy innocents - Matthew 2:13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

CAROL

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

ELW #286

*Verses 1 & 2***Verse 1**

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
And come your lowly bed to see;
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
That we the way to you may find.

Verse 2

With songs we hasten you to greet,
And kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our soul's delight.

LESSON {Pulpit} (Rob)

The 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. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Verse 1

He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forevermore.

Verse 2

He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.

Verse 3

He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
Hallelujah forevermore.

Verse 4

He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.

+RESPONSIVE PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

Screen

L: Glory to God in the highest

C: and peace to God’s people on earth.

L: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send our gift of peace to all nations of the world.

L: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick the dying, and all who suffer this day.

L: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

+THE APOSTLES’ CREED {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

Screen

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

Screen

After each petition:

L: God of love,

C: we wait in hope.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: For all who are gathered, let us take a moment to welcome everyone with a wave of peace. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

Please share of wave of peace with one another.

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

L: As we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

(silence is kept for reflection)

Gracious God,

C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

L: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Rob*)

+DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*spoken*)

Screen

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Rob*)

+THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Rob*)

C: 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE TABLE/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW pg. 146/*Screen*

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

L: In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out your welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered the collection plates are in the front and back. For those online please go to our website stlukesbloomington.org and there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

SONG/INSTRUMENTAL

Lori Murray

Please stand as you are able.

+POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Rob*)

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

+POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

ELW #207/*Screen*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;

Send us with your promises

Tell everyone what God has done.

And lead your people forth in joy

Let everyone who seeks the Lord

With shouts of thanks giving.

Rejoice and bear the name of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

L: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Be Bearers of Hope. Let the Hope that does not disappoint dwell in your hearts and share the Hope of Christ with all you meet. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW #290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,

over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

Verse 2

+DISMISSAL (*Britt Halaas*)

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

POSTLUDE

“Hark, the Glad Sound”
Lori Murray

Stephen Gabrielsen