

Lessons and Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love

December 17, 2023

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 "Come, Come Emmanuel" *Joel Raney*
St. Luke's Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS {Front Center} (Rob)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH {Lectern} (Heather & Julie) *Screen*

L: I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. You are precious in my sight, honored, and I love you. *Isaiah 43:3a, 4a*

CANDLE LIGHTING (Light the Fourth Candle) {Lectern} (Heather & Julie) *Screen*

L: Gracious God. Thank you for your forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Your love is perfect, it never fails, and nothing can separate us from your love.

C: Amen

SONG "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" *ELW #242*
Verse 4

Verse 4

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.

Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

+GREETING {Front Center} (Britt Halaas)

L: Jesus, the brightest star of the morning, gives us his promise: "Look! I am coming quickly."
The Spirit and the church say "Come!" Let everyone who hears answer, "Come!"

C: Amen! Even so come, Lord Jesus!

+PRAYER OF THE DAY (Britt Halaas)

L: Holy Lord, a voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world.
Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming.

C: Amen.

+OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *ELW #257*
Verses 1, 5, 6, 7

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Verse 5

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

Verse 6

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

Verse 7

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one;
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new;

Refrain

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

“The King Shall Come”

ELW #260

Verses 1 & 4

Verse 1

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

Verse 4

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

LESSON {Lectern} (Bette Gamboni)

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.

ANTHEM

“A Carol for Advent”

Gilbert M. Martin

St. Luke's Choir

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.

CAROL

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

ELW #265

Verses 1 & 2

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} (Bette Gamboni)

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.

*Verse 1***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.

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.

*Verses 1***Verse 1**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

LESSON {*Lectern*} (Bette Gamboni)*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.

*Verses 1 and 3***Verse 1**

Love has come a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love!
 Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love!
 Glory to God on high.

Verse 3

Love has come and never will leave us!
 Love is life everlasting and free.
 Love is Jesus within and among us.
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love!
 Love is the gift of Christmas.
 Love! Love!
 Praise to you, God on high!

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

“The First Noel”
Verses 1, 2, and 3

ELW #300

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;

and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

LESSON {*Lectern*} (*Bette Gamboni*)

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

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
Verses 1 & 3

ELW #272

Verse 1

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath
spring! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have
sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Verse 3

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills
the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness
ev'rywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death
he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

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.

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”
Verses 1 & 2

ELW #295

Verse 1

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Verse 2

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

+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: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

+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 those around us with a greeting. 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.

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

Screen

L: Holy God, Open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit

C: upon us, within us, among us.

L: For our apathy in the presence of oppression,

C: Forgive us.

L: If we have contributed to the broken heartedness of anyone,

C: Forgive us.

L: When we are deaf to your good news,

C: Have mercy and open our ears.

L: When our mouths remain too tightly closed,

C: Loosen our lips with songs of praise.

L: Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our sins.

C: Hold us in your mercy, now and forever.

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*Rob*)

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 and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*brief intro*)

ELW pg. 153/*Screen*

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

+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. 154/*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, 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, and there is a QR code in the bulletin to give electronically. For those on-line please go to our website stlukesbloomington.org there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

ANTHEM

"A Shoot Shall Come Forth"
St. Luke's Choir

Richard Horn

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.

C: Amen.

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

L: We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use our gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C: Amen.

SENDING

+BENEDICTION

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"
St. Luke's Choir

Peter C. Lutkin

+SENDING HYMN

"People, Look East"
Verses 1 & 4

ELW #248

Verse 1

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing to day today--
Love, the Guest is on the way.

Verse 4

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*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

POSTLUDE

*Altar Flowers Today Given by
Pat & Mary Lair
In celebration of our 43rd Wedding
Anniversary*