



*The true
light*

*that gives light
to everyone
was coming into
the world.*

JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

December 24, 2020

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude *Hail this Brightest Day of Days BWV 605* Bach (1685-1750)

Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* *Adeste fidelis*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God! Glory in the highest
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Lesson One Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Savior's Coming Is Foretold.

The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light. Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. You shall multiply the nation, you shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Thanks Be to God.

Carol *Joy to the World* Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive Her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love!

Lesson Two Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The Annunciation.

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at *this* statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God...And Mary said, "Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Thanks Be to God.

Carol

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Carol, arr. Barnwell (b. 1962)

Cathy Cunningham, harp

Lesson Three Luke 2: 1-7

The Birth of Christ.

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Thanks Be to God.

Carol

What Child is This

Greensleeves

Celia Daggy, viola

Lesson Four Luke 2:8-20

The Adoration of the Shepherds. The First Noël.

In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." When the angels had

gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So, they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Thanks Be to God.

Carol

O Holy Night
Kathy Brown, soprano

Adam (1803-1856)

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother.
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Lesson Five Matthew 2: 1-11

The Adoration of the Wise Men.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thanks Be to God.

Carol

We Three Kings

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.

[Refrain] Oh, star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshipping God Most High.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

Lesson Six John 1: 1-14

The Word Made Flesh.

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 apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, 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 saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks Be to God

Carol

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing! Glory to the newborn King!

