

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
170 Flinders Street, Adelaide

Lessons & Carols

A CANDLELIT EVENING OF
SCRIPTURE READINGS
AND CAROLS



18 DECEMBER 2022 at 8pm

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

A Service of Lessons & Carols 2022

Readings and Music for Christmas

Each year at Christmas we gather together as a congregation to hear readings from the Holy Scriptures telling of the birth of the Lord Jesus, the promised Messiah. As we hear these readings, the choir leads us in meditation and reflection, and we respond with our songs and prayers.

ORGAN PRELUDES

Kerstfeest Suites 1 and 2 (excerpts) – *Jan Zwart*

Introduction and Variations on the Noel, Infant Holy – *Alexandre Guilmant*

PROCESSIONAL: Once in Royal David's City

Solo:

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.

CONGREGATION:

2. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895); Music by H J Gauntlett (1805-1876), Public Domain

INVOCATION

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHOIR: The Truth from Above – R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.*

*The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.*

*And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.*

*Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.*

LESSON 1: Genesis 22:15-18 – God’s promise to Abraham

CHOIR: Adam lay ybounden – Boris Ord (1897-1961)

*Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavené queen.*

*Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!*

CHOIR: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree – Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

LESSON 2: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 - The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

CHOIR: Of a rose synge we - Carl Crossin (1953-) new work

Refrain:

<i>Misterium mirabile,</i>	[miraculous mystery]
<i>Viri sine semine,</i>	[without seed of man]
<i>Misterium mirabile,</i>	[miraculous mystery]
<i>Claro David germine.</i>	[born of the house of David]

*This rose is set upon a ryse, [branch]
He hath brought the Prince of Peace,
And in this timé sooth it is,
Viri sine semine.*

[without seed of man]

*This rose is red of colour bright,
Through whom our joy began alight,
Upon a blessed Christmas night,
Claro David germine.*

[born of the house of David]

*And of this rose was Christ y-bore,
To save mankind that was forlore,
And save us all from sinnes sore,
Prophetarum carmine.*

[as the prophets foretold]

*This rose, she is so fair of hue,
And in maid Mary that is so true,
Y-borne was the Lord of all virtue,
Salvator sine crimine.*

[Saviour without sin]

Text: c 1450 from the 'Seldon Carol Book', Bodleian Library

CONGREGATION: 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. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.**
- 3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.**
- 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:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

*Words by Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Public Domain;
English Traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

LESSON 3: Luke 1:26-35, 38 – The Angel Gabriel visits Mary

CHOIR: The Angel Gabriel – *Basque Carol arr. Malcolm Archer (1952-)*

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail!' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

CHOIR: In the Stillness – *Sally Beamish (1956-)*

In the stillness of a church where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall of fresh white snow,
In the brightness of the stars that shine this night,
In the calmness of a pool of healing light,
In the clearness of a choir that softly sings,
In the oneness of a hush of angels' wings,
In the mildness of night by stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull near cradle fair,
There's a patience as we wait for a new morn,
And the presence of a child soon to be born.

LESSON 4: Matthew 1:18-25 – Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

CHOIR: A Carol – *Roland E. Martin (1955-)*

*Once for a shining hour,
Heav'n touched earth.
Hope was born anew,
And peace reigned in the world.*

CHOIR: Of the Father's Love Begotten – arr. Stephan Casurella (1973-)

<i>Corde natus ex parentis</i>	[Of the Father's love begotten
<i>Ante mundi exordium,</i>	Ere the worlds began to be,
<i>Alpha et O cognominatus,</i>	He is Alpha and Omega,
<i>ipse fons et clausula</i>	He the source, the ending He,
<i>Omnium quæ sunt, fuerunt,</i>	Of the things that are, that have been,
<i>quæque post futura sunt:</i>	And that future years shall see,
<i>Sæculorum sæculis.</i>	Evermore and evermore!]

*O that birth forever blessèd,
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Saviour of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!*

*Let the heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be;
Honour, glory and dominion
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!*

Text: 11th Century, adapted from Piaæ Cantiones, 1582

LESSON 5: Luke 2: 8-16 – The Shepherds go to the Manger

CHOIR: The Shepherds' Farewell – Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

*Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother,
Shelter Thee with tender care!*

*Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before Thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling
Ever to Thy heart be dear!*

*Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!*

*Music: The Shepherds' Farewell (from L'Enfance du Christ Op. 25) | Hector Berlioz
Words: Hector Berlioz, translated by Paul England.*

LESSON 6: Matthew 2:1-11 – The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

CHOIR: Saw you never in the twilight – Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

*Saw you never, in the twilight,
When the sun had left the skies,
Up in heav'n the clear stars shining
Through the gloom, like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men, watching,
Saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given,
And they followed from afar.*

*Heard you never of the story
How they crossed the desert wild,
Journey'd on by plain and mountain,
Till they found the Holy Child?,
How they opened all their treasure,
Kneeling to that infant King;
Gave the gold and fragrant incense,
Gave the Myrrh in offering?*

*Know ye not that lowly baby
Was the bright and morning Star?
He who came to light the Gentiles,
and the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, may seek his cradle;
there our hearts' best treasures bring;
Love, and faith, and true devotion
For our Saviour, God and King.*

CHOIR: Coventry Carol – Traditional, arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully, lullay.*

*O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling, for whom we sing,
By by, lully, lullay?*

*Herod, the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight
All young children to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing
By by, lully, lullay!*

CONGREGATION: SILENT NIGHT

1. **Silent night, holy night!**
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. **Silent night, holy night!**
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.
3. **Silent night, holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,

Words by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), Tr. J F Young (1820-1885)

Melody by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), Public Domain

CHOIR: Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia!

Tune: Freuet euch, ihr Christen – A Hammerschmidt (1612-1675)

LESSON 7: John 1: 1-14 – The Word Made Flesh

CHOIR: Ecce Novum – Ola Gjeilo (1978-)

<i>Ecce, novum gaudium,</i>	Behold, a new joy,
<i>Ecce, novum mirum!</i>	Behold, a new wonder!
<i>Virgo parit filium,</i>	A Virgin, who knew not a man, bears a son.
<i>Quae non novit virum.</i>	She knew not a man,
<i>Sed ut pirus pirus,</i>	but as the pear-tree bears the pear,
<i>Gleba fert papyrus,</i>	the flourishing papyrus brings
<i>Florens liliū.</i>	the lily from the soil.
<i>Ecce, quod natura</i>	See how nature
<i>Mutat sua iura!</i>	changes her laws!
<i>Virgo parit pura</i>	A pure virgin bears
<i>Dei filium.</i>	the son of God.

Text: Medieval 16th Century Latin, Piae Cantiones.

COLLECTS

CHOIR: Tollite hostias – Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

*Tollite hostias, et adorete
Dominum in atrio sancto eius.*

Bring forth your offerings,
and adore the Lord, your God,
and worship Him in his Holy place.

*Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra
a facie Domini, quoniam venit.
Alleluia.*

Rejoice in heaven, exult all ye peoples,
for the Lord now comes in glory.
Alleluia.

The final chorus from Camille Saint-Saëns 'Christmas Oratorio'.

BLESSING

CONGREGATION: 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 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.***
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, th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.***
3. **Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.***

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Revised George Whitefield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others;

Music by F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847) and W H Cummings (1831-1915)

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata en koraal "U zij de glorie"- Martin Mans

*God bless you, your family
and friends as you celebrate
Christ's coming this Christmas*

Minister	Pastor Fraser Pearce
Organ & Piano	Gina Dutschke
Choir Director	Jillian McGregor
Bible Bearer	Annette Tonissen
Crucifer	Eliza Thomas
Acolytes	Olivia Thomas Victoria Thomas

Readers

Lesson 1	Karen Pienaar
Lesson 2	Dakota Oschenham
Lesson 3	Jo Croft
Lesson 4	Karl Jacobson
Lesson 5	Faye Schmidt
Lesson 6	Lucy Hensley
Lesson 7	Pastor Fraser Pearce

Vocal Soloists

Bethany Wilson*
Margaret Pearce
Jordana Wilson*

** Denotes guest singer*

Instrumentalists

Handbells	Alison O'Connell
Violin	Eve Hooper Grace Hooper
Percussion	Carl Crossin Eve Hooper Grace Hooper

Choristers

Sopranos

Anne Davey
Jayne Hartwig*
Elizabeth Mackenzie
Margaret May
Margaret Pearce
Grace Schache
Annette Tonissen
Jordana Wilson*
Dorothy Zweck

Altos

Sonia Beal
Monica Christian*
Christine Halbert
Joanna Hensley*
Judy Jaensch
Alison O'Connell*

Tenors

Pauline Burger
Sam Davey
Greg Janzow
Jonathan Leske*
Oliver Pietsch*

Basses

Nikolai Leske*
Peter Mickan
Oscar Pearce
Timothy Pietsch
David Rohrsheim*

** Denotes guest singer*

Thank you for coming to Bethlehem Lessons & Carols.
You are welcome to join us for our other
Christmas services are as follows:

Christmas Eve - Saturday December 24
7pm - Nativity Play
9pm - Carols Service

Christmas Day - Sunday December 25
9.30am - with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve - Saturday 31 December
7pm - Service at St Stephens,
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.

New Year's Day - Sunday 1 January
9.30am - with Holy Communion
7pm - Vespers Service