

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
170 Flinders Street, Adelaide

# Lessons & Carols

A CANDLELIT EVENING OF  
SCRIPTURE READINGS  
AND CAROLS



17 DECEMBER 2023 at 8pm

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# A Service of Lessons & Carols 2023

Readings and Music for Christmas

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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.

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## **ORGAN PRELUDE:**

**Away in a Manger: Organ Music for Advent and Christmas -*Dick Sanderman***

1. Fanfare on "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
2. Prelude on "While Shepherds Watched"
3. Pastorale on "Away in a Manger"
4. Prelude on "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"
5. Scherzo on "Ding, Dong! Merrily on High"
6. Prelude on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
7. Offertory on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
8. Pastorale on "The Angel Gabriel"

## **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**      3. **And our eyes at last shall see Him,**  
**Who is God and Lord of all,**                      **Through His own redeeming love,**  
**And His shelter was a stable,**                      **For that child so dear and gentle**  
**And His cradle was a stall;**                      **Is our Lord in heaven above;**  
**With the poor, and mean, and lowly,**              **And He leads His children on**  
**Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**                      **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: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree – Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)**

1. *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.*
2. *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.*
3. *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.*
4. *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.*
5. *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.*

*Words from 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs' compiled by Joshua Smith*

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

### CHOIR: Remember, O thou man – Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1582-c.1635)

1. *Remember, O thou man,  
O thou man, O thou man,  
Remember O thou man,  
Thy time is spent.  
Remember, O thou man,  
How thou art dead and gone,  
And I did what I can,  
Therefore repent.*
2. *Remember Adam’s fall  
O thou man, O thou man!  
Remember Adam’s fall  
From heaven to hell!  
Remember Adam’s fall,  
How we were condemned all  
In hell perpetual,  
There for to dwell.*
3. *Remember God’s goodnesse,  
O thou man, O thou man!  
Remember God’s goodnesse,  
And his promise made!  
Remember God’s goodnesse,  
How he sent His Sonne, doubtlesse  
Our sinnes for to redresse,  
Be not afraid.*
4. *The angels all did sing,  
O thou man, O thou man!  
The angels all did sing  
Upon the shepherds’ hill  
The angels all did singe  
Praises to our heavenly King,  
And peace to man living,  
With a good will!*

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

### CHOIR: O come, O come Immanuel – 15<sup>th</sup> c French, arr John Rutter (1945-)

1. *O come, O come, Immanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. *O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
3. *O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
4. *O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
5. *O come, Thou 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**CHOIR: Virga Jesse floruit** – Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) ed John Rutter (1945-)

*Virga Jesse floruit:*

*Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:*

*pacem Deus reddidit,*

*in se reconcilians ima summis.*

*Alleluia.*

*Translation:*

The rod of Jesse hath blossomed:

a Virgin hath brought forth God and man:

God hath restored peace,

reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.

Alleluia.

**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 wond'ring 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 Emmanuel!**

*English Traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Descant by Thomas Armstrong*

*Words by Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Public Domain*

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

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

1. *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!*
2. *'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!*
3. *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!*
4. *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: Bogoroditse Devo** – *Sergei Rachmaninov ( 1873-1943)*

*Bogoróditse Dévo, ráduysia,  
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Ghospód s  
Tobóyu.  
Blagoslovéna Ti v zhenáh,  
i blagoslovén Plod chréva Tvoyegó,  
yáko Spása rodilá, yesí dush náshih.*

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.  
*Translation by Barry Johnston*

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

**CHOIR: Poverty** – *Welsh (Dr. Caradog Roberts)*

1. *All poor men and humble,  
All lame men who stumble  
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid.  
For Jesus, our treasure,  
With love past all measure,  
In lowly poor manger was laid.*
2. *Though wise men who found him  
Laid rich gifts around him,  
Yet oxen they gave him their hay;  
And Jesus in beauty  
Accepted their duty;  
Contented in manger he lay.*
3. *Then haste we to show him  
The praises we owe him;  
Our service he ne'er can despise:  
Whose love still is able  
To show us that stable  
Where softly in manger he lies.*

**CHOIR: Ding dong! merrily on high – 16<sup>th</sup> c French melody**

*Ding-dong! merrily on high  
in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding-dong! verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing:  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen;  
and i-o, i-o, i-o,  
by priest and people sungen!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
may you beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers:  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Harmonized by Charles Wood (1866-1926); Words by G R Woodward (1848-1934)*

**CONGREGATION: Silent Night**

Choir sings verse 1 in German:

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

Organ Interlude on Silent Night - Jan Zwart

**CONGREGATION:**

- 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.

*Melody by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)*

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

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

### **CHOIR: I wonder as I wander** – *Appalachian carol, arr John Rutter (1945-)*

- 1. I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.  
For poor ornery people like you and like I...  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*
- 2. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*
- 3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n to sing,  
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

### **CHOIR: Shepherd's pipe carol** – *Words and music by John Rutter (1945-)*

- 1. Going through the hills on a night all starry  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping  
On the way to Bethlehem.  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth,  
And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."*
- 2. "Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem?  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for the joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth,  
And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."*
- 3. "None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem;  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies  
When I get to Bethlehem."  
Angels in the sky came down from on high,  
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying  
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,  
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*



4. *"Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Is He there at Bethlehem?"  
"I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly  
In the sky o'er Bethlehem."  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth  
And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."*
5. *"May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle  
Is it far to Bethlehem?"  
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King  
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,  
Born for you at Bethlehem."*

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

### **CHOIR: The Three Kings** – Peter Cornelius (1824-1874), arr Ivor Atkins

*Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee,  
As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.*

*Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
The Kings are trav'ling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King,  
Offer thy heart!*

*How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heav'n afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

*Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

*Carol translated by H N Bate*

*A free translation of Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, Philipp Nicolai, 1597*

**CHOIR: Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia!**

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

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

**CHOIR: Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light – J Rist, harmonised by J S Bach**

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light  
And usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
But hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy,  
Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The pow'r of Satan breaking  
Our peace eternal making.*

*Tune Ermuntre dich by Johann Rist (1607-1667); Words by Johann Rist (1607-1667)*

**COLLECTS & 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.***

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

*Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Revised George Whitefield, Martin Madan & others*

## RECESSION OF CHOIR & CLERGY

### ORGAN POSTLUDE: In dulci jubilo BWV 729 - J S Bach

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

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<b>Minister</b>	Pastor Fraser Pearce
<b>Organ &amp; Piano</b>	Gina Dutschke
<b>Choir Director</b>	Kim Worley
<b>Bible Bearer</b>	Annette Tonissen
<b>Crucifer</b>	Eliza Thomas
<b>Acolytes</b>	Olivia Thomas Tina Falcon-Harvie

#### **Readers:**

Lesson 1	Faye Schmidt
Lesson 2	Pastor Jeff Silcock
Lesson 3	Andrea Virgin
Lesson 4	James Gibbs
Lesson 5	Alexandra Downie
Lesson 6	Eleni Millhouse
Lesson 7	Pastor Fraser Pearce

#### **Vocal Soloists:**

Christian Evans\*  
Margaret Pearce  
James Scott\*  
Emma Woehle\*  
Clara Worley\*  
*\* Denotes guest singer*

#### **Instrumentalist:**

Flute	Anna Zweck
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**Sopranos**

Rachel Crookes\*  
Anne Davey  
Jayne Hartwig\*  
Elizabeth Mackenzie  
Margaret May  
Margaret Pearce  
Grace Schache  
Lyndall Timmis  
Annette Tonissen  
Lorinda Wegener\*  
Anna Zweck\*  
Dorothy Zweck

**Choristers****Altos**

Monica Christian\*  
Christine Halbert  
Judy Jaensch  
Claire Kleinig\*  
Hannah Noll  
Lisa Thiele  
Emma Woehle\*  
Marilyn Worley\*

**Tenors**

Andrew Brook\*  
Pauline Burger  
Sam Davey  
Greg Janzow  
Louise McGee\*  
Jeremy Timmis

**Basses**

Christian Evans\*  
Peter Mickan  
Oscar Pearce  
Timothy Pietsch  
James Scott\*  
Peter Tonissen

*\* Denotes guest singer*

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Thank you for coming to Bethlehem Lessons & Carols.

You are welcome to join us for our other  
Christmas services are as follows:

**Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24**

7pm - Nativity Play  
9pm - Carols Service

**Christmas Day - Monday December 25**

9.30am - with Holy Communion

**New Year's Eve - Sunday 31 December**

7pm - with Holy Communion, .

**New Year's Day - Monday 1 January**

9.30am - with Holy Communion