



**A Service of
Lessons and Carols**
December 2020

LANCASTER CONVOCATION

*Bangor Church, Narvon
Hope Church, Manheim
St. Edward's, Lancaster
St. Luke's, Mount Joy
St. James, Lancaster
St. John's, Lancaster
St. John's, Marietta
St. Paul's, Columbia
St. Paul's, Manheim
St Thomas, Lancaster*

PRELUDE Dr. Maria Corley, piano, Mr. Bradley Mattson, trumpet, St. Thomas Church
The Wexford Carol
O God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman
Silent Night

GREETING
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Cady Scanlan, Bishop of The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

HYMN OF PRAISE Saint James Virtual Choir, Directed by Dr. William Wright
Once in Royal David's City Traditional English Carol

THE BIDDING PRAYER
The Venerable Jane Miron, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and Deacon of St. Thomas Church, and The Rev. Stacey Catigano, Deacon of St. John's Church and Prison Chaplain

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and

especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER Ms. Martha Harris, Seminarian, Lancaster Theological Seminary

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND JOY The Rev. Jennifer Mattson, St. Thomas Church
The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON Ms. Mary and Mr. Michael Whetstone, Bangor Church
Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid

myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

CAROL

A Heavenly Light

Bangor Church
Highland Digital Small Pipes, featuring The Rev. Mark Scheneman

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Ms. Anna Gail Fenn, St. Thomas Church

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

CAROL

Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Dr. Maria Corley, organ and Mr. Bradley Mattson, trumpet

St. Thomas Church
From the 1982 Hymnal

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

Ms. Danielle Peters, St. Paul's Church, Columbia

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. 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 from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

On Jordan's Bank

Ms. Hallie McCoy, singer, Ms. Jan Stein, Accompanist

St. Paul's Church, Columbia
From the Lutheran Hymnal *Christian Worship*

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

Ms. Lucy Longo, Hope Church

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion

and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
Ms. Gail Edgell, Organist

Hope Church
15th Century German Carol

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35; 38

Sr. Ingrid Andersen, St. Luke's Church

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, favoured 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 favour 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

What Child is This

Mrs. Beth Warren, Mrs. Linda Mamourian, Ms. Corynne McCleary, Ms. Lynn McCleary, Sr.
Ingrid Andersen

St. Luke's Church
Traditional English Carol

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1; 3-7

Mr. Greyson Way, St. John's Church, Lancaster

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

CAROL*Once in Royal David's City*

Mr. Ben McNaboe, piano

Vocalists: Ms. Sue Zuke, Ms. Fran Gouveia, Mr. Aaron Michaux, Mr. Ben Webber

St. John's Church, Lancaster

19th Century English Hymn

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

Ms. Geraldine Earhart, St. Paul's Church, Manheim

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*Medley of Shepherd Hymns*

Ms. Pam Heisey, Organ

St. Paul's Church, Manheim

Traditional, from 1982 hymnal

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12

Dr. William Wright, St. James Church

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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL
O Come, All Ye Faithful

St. James Church
Traditional English Carol

NINTH LESSON
Hebrews 1:1-12

Mr. Seth Hake, St. Edward's Church

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

CAROL
Angels, From the Realms of Glory
Mr. Patrick Ishler, vocals, Ms. Karen Waddill, piano

St. Edwards' Church

TENTH LESSON
John 1: 1-14

A Group Reading, St. John's Church, Marietta

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.

CAROL
Organ Medley
Dr. Karl Moyer, Organist

St. John's Church, Marietta
Traditional English Carols

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

The Rev. Jan Brown, Deacon, The Rev. John Morris, POWER, and The Rev. Beth Mollard, retired, St. John's Church, Lancaster

Let us pray.

God of promise, from ancient times you have sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise the holy Child of Bethlehem in whose name we pray. Amen.

God of the prophets in every age: you send messengers of hope for the world. Strengthen us to live as faithful people who proclaim a present and future of joy and renewed life. Amen.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Dr. Maria Corley, organ; Mr. Bradley Mattson, trumpet, St. Thomas Church

THE BLESSING

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Cady Scanlan, Bishop of The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer, St. Edward's Church

Our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer, Rector, St. Edward's Church, Lancaster, for his work in producing this worship service and to Mr. Malcom Corley, artist at St. Thomas Church for the beautiful cover artwork of the nativity.