

Lessons & Carols



Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church
December 16, 2018 • 6:00 pm

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

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The Festival of Lessons and Carols which we are celebrating tonight is patterned after a traditional English service. It consists of a series of Scripture lessons which outline the story of Christmas, coupled with appropriate carols, anthems and hymns.

The entire service will proceed unannounced.

**Congregation stands — please stand at hymn introductions.*

PRELUDE

*PROCESSIONAL: ***Once in Royal David's City***

... congregation

Red Hymnal 87

Choir:

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.

Women and Girls:

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 meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

Men and Boys:

For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

All:

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

All in unison:

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:
there his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

*BIDDING PRAYER

...Pastor John Groen

Leader:

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
we prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
We have gathered to hear, in readings from the holy scriptures,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem his waiting people.

We rehearse again the account of the loving purposes of God
from the first days of our disobedience
to the glorious appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We rejoice, in carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled:
and we celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ, ushers in a kingdom of power and glory forever.

But first, we pray for the world which God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

Silent Prayers

These prayers we humbly offer
as we meditate on the readings from holy scripture,
and also now, in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

All:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

BIDDING ANTHEM ***Poor Folk Hear Him Gladly***

... choir

words: Tom Colvin
music: Jessie Nyagondwe, Malawi
arr. by John Bell

In Bethlehem of Judah, among the very poorest,
a child was born of Mary, of all God's gifts the richest.

*Poor folk hear him gladly: yours will be the kingdom.
Rich folk, share your fortunes: Yesu bids you welcome.*

The workers of the fields came to greet the King of Heaven;
the clever, rich, and haughty knew nothing of his birth then.

He came to bring a new way of living with each other,
by sharing and by loving and serving one another.

The hungry, poor, or sinful, or those whose lives are broken,
can find in him their freedom and glory as God's children.

So welcome to the story of blessed Yesu's birthday.
Let's give ourselves to Yesu and live forever his way.

The First Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1:1-17

... Pastor Ryan Boes

The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

(please repeat after each lesson)

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

... congregation

Red Hymnal 78

All:

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.

Women and Girls:

O that birth forever blessed, when a virgin, blest with 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.

Men and Boys:

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

All:

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing:
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

All:

Christ to you, with God the Father and the Spirit, there shall be
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and the shout of jubilee:
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory evermore and evermore. Amen.

The Second Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

... Priscilla Carlson

The birth of Jesus foretold

CAROL ***Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor***

... congregation

Red Hymnal 75

Lord, you were rich beyond all splendor,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendor,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heav'nward by your eternal plan.
You are our our God, beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man.

Lord, you are love beyond all telling;
Savior and King, we worship you.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true.
Lord, you are love beyond all telling;
Savior and King, we worship you.

The Third Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1:39-56

... Matthew & Allyson Wever

Mary visits Elizabeth

CAROL ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***

... congregation

Red Hymnal 79:1-3

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung;
of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas fortold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior
when half spent was the night.

This flow'r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air;
his brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, he came to save his people
from earth's dark night of sin.

The Fourth Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-14

... Joel Hofman

The birth of Jesus

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

... choir

Red Hymnal 59; arr. Valerie Shields

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them.
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling to us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is spread abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken!

The Fifth Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

... Jacob Bennink

The shepherds and the angels

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

... congregation

Red Hymnal 76

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The Sixth Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 2:1-15

... Leanne Groen

The Magi visit the Messiah

ANTHEM

The Shepherds' Farewell

... choir

words: Paul England
music: Hector Berlioz

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 shepherds' 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!

The Seventh Lesson

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:1-14

... Chris Adams

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

ANTHEM

Carol of Joy

... choir

words: Eileen Berry
music: Dan Forrest

Green leaves have fallen, withered and dry;
brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
then through the stillness, carols begin.

*O fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!*

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow;
cold, barren hillside, shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night:
hear angel music, hopeful and bright.

*O fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with our God, and pardon for wrong.
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound,
a carol of joy, a Savior is found!*

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes!
Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, sad-hearted! Witness God's love;
join in the chorus swelling above!

*O friendless world, to you is the song!
All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn:
now unto you a Savior is born!*

*BLESSING

...Pastor John Groen

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no person evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever. Amen.

*CAROL

Joy to the World

... congregation

Red Hymnal 92

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, 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, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*POSTLUDE

Members of the Choir

Soprano

Marie Blanarova
Dawn Geldermans
Nancy Hofman
Martha B Northrup
Katherine Wever
Carolyn Wurster
Dawn Zinsser

Tenor

Phil Boonstra
Roger Buiten
Michael Drumm
Roy Glover
Art Henke
Sam Roelofs
Al Staal

Alto

Priscilla Carlson
Muriel Learned
Karen Ludema
Marilyn McLaughlin
Mary Staal
Gladys Thonus

Bass

Mac Cox
David Cummins
Joel Hofman
George Lindquist
David McLaughlin
David Musch
Tom Trevethan

Paul Herrema, director; Jan Musch, accompanist

Oboe: Jen Boes, Dane Hubers

Flute: Kim Hubers

Pastors Ryan Boes & John Groen



