



Ceremony of Lessons *and* Carols

Anna Laura Page *and* Jean Anne Shafferman

Congregation
(Please sing when directed)

Processional Carols and Bidding Prayer
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Choir only)

Once in Royal David's City
Words by Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

(Choir and Congregation)

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.

Reader 1: Jesus came to earth from heaven, God incarnate, Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the oppressed and lowly, Jesus lived, our Savior holy.

Reader 2: Jesus 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.

(Choir and Congregation)

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 is gone.

First Lesson and Carols

Reader 1: When they heard the sound of God walking in the garden, Adam and Eve hid themselves among the trees. Then God called to Adam, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself."

Reader 2: And God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Adam replied, "The woman whom You made to be with me gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." And God said to Eve, "What is this you have done?" She replied, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Reader 1: So God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than every beast of the field. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; her Seed will bruise your head, and you will bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:8-15)

The Sans Day Carol and The Holly and the Ivy
(Choir only)

Second Lesson and Carols

Reader 1: An Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven and said, “The Lord has promised that, because you have been willing to sacrifice your son – your only son – the Lord will greatly bless you and multiply your descendants as stars of the heavens and sand on the seashore. In your descendants, all nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed God’s voice.” (*Genesis 22:15-18*)

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Stanza 1 by **James Montgomery**, 1816, 1825; Stanza 2 from *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

(Choir and Congregation)

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

(Choir only)

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new, the newborn King!

Third Lesson and Carols

Reader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Reader 2: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:2, 6*)

See, Amid the Winter’s Snow

(Choir only)

Fourth Lesson and Carols

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

(Choir only)

Reader 2: A shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch will grow out of Jesse’s roots. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and obedient fear of the Lord; and He will delight in the Lord. With righteousness, He will judge the poor and decide with fairness for the meek, the poor, and the oppressed of the earth. Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child will lead them. (*Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6*)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by **Charles Wesley**, 1739

(Choir and Congregation)

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

(Choir only)

Gloria, gloria, glory to the newborn King!”

Fifth Lesson and Carols

Reader 1: God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin named Mary. Mary was engaged to Joseph, who was a descendant of the house of David. The angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But Mary was troubled by his greeting and confused by its meaning.

Reader 2: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 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 God will give Him the throne of His forefather David. Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said, "How can this be, since I do not have a husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and your child will be called the Son of God." Mary replied, "Behold, I am the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be as you have said." Then the angel departed from her. (*Luke 1:26-35, 38*)

What Child Is This (Choir only)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks, 1868

(Choir and Congregation)

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Sixth Lesson and Carols

Reader 1: A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered, each person to his own city. So Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of Bethlehem, because he was a descendant of David. He travelled with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. And while they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (*Luke 2:1, 3-7*)

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine (Choir only)

Good Christians All, Rejoice!

Traditional German carol, translated and paraphrased by John Mason Neale, 1853

(Choir and Congregation)

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

(Choir only)

Jesus Christ was born to save! Jesus Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Seventh Lesson and Carols

Reader 2: Now in the countryside there were shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Reader 1: And suddenly a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all people!" When the angels had gone away into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (*Luke 2:8-16*)

Sing We Now of Christmas
(Choir only)

The First Noel

Traditional English carol from W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

(Choir and Congregation)

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

(Choir only)

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King, Noel we sing,
sing we Noel, sing we Noel, born is the King of Israel!

Eighth Lesson and Carols with Closing Blessing

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shined in the darkness, but the darkness did not comprehend it.

Reader 2: Then God sent a man named John who came to bear witness to Love's Pure Light. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:1-14*)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words by **John Francis Wade**, ca. 1740-1743, translated by **Frederick Oakeley**, 1841

(Choir and Congregation)

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!

Silent Night, Holy Night

Words by **Joseph Mohr**, 1818, translated by **John Freeman Young**, 1863

(Choir and Congregation)

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.

Joy to the World

Words by **Isaac Watts**, 1719

(Choir and Congregation)

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Reader 1: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Reader 2: Glory to God on high, and to the earth be peace!

Reader 1: Now to God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One, may every tongue and nation raise and endless song of thankful praise!

(Choir only)

Joy to the world! Joy to the world! Joy to the world! Sing joy!