

# Lessons and Carols for Christmas 2

January 3, 2021

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING CAROL

*Joy to the World*

#267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let Earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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 grown or 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.

## OPENING DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

**By day and night he shines for all to see.**

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

**that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of our lives.**

Sing to God a new song!

**A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

### CAROL

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

#282

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

#### OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

#### FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

#### CAROL

*I wonder as I wander*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky  
How Jesus the savior, did come for die  
For poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I - I wonder as I wander, out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all  
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall  
And the promise of ages, it then did recall

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 heaven to sing  
He surely could've had it, 'cause he was the king

#### SECOND READING

Micah 5:2-5a

#### CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#279

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.

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 the earth!

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.

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;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

**THIRD READING**

Luke 1:26-35, 38

**CAROL**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

#265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

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

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian  
folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

**FOURTH READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

**CAROL**

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

#297

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing:  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

**FIFTH READING**

Luke 2:8-20

**CAROL**

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

#275

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.  
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 the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

**SIXTH READING**

Matthew 2:1-11

**CAROL**

*What Child is This*

#296

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

#### SEVENTH READING

John 1:1-14

#### CAROL

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

#295

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.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of 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.

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.

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.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high  
thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen!

#### MEDITATION

#### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

You are the shepherds telling the story.

**We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

You are the angels announcing peace.

**We live with joy and go now in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING CAROL

*Angels We have Heard on High*

#289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## POSTLUDE