

Welcome to
St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel

LESSONS & CAROLS

5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve



PROGRAM

WELCOME

Reading: "What Christmas Is As We Grow Older" (excerpt)

Charles Dickens

Welcome, everything! Welcome, alike what has been,
and what never was, and what we hope may be,
to your shelter underneath the holly, to your places round the Christmas fire,
where what is sits open- hearted!

*Carol: "O come, all ye faithful" vs. 1, 2

Hymnal 83

LESSON ONE

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Molly Anderson

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: "O little town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 2

Hymnal 79

LESSON TWO

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Laura Day

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.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Carol: “Hark! the herald angels sing”

Hymn 87

LESSON THREE

Reading: John 1:1-14

Madison Day

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.

BENEDICTION

Reading: “Shepherd’s Song at Christmas”

Langston Hughes

Acey Neal

Look there at the star!
I, among the least,
Will arise and take
A journey to the East.
*But what shall I bring
As a present for the King?
What shall I bring to the Manger?*

I will bring a song,
A song that I will sing,
A song for the King
In the Manger.

Watch out for my flocks,
Do not let them stray.
I am going on a journey
Far, far away.
*But what shall I bring
As a present for the Child?
What shall I bring to the Manger?*

I will bring a lamb,
Gentle, meek, and mild,
A lamb for the Child
In the Manger.

I’m just a shepherd boy,
Very poor I am—
But I know there is
A king in Bethlehem.
*But what shall I bring
As a present for Him?
What shall I bring to the Manger?*

I will bring my heart
And give my heart to Him.
I will bring my heart
To the Manger.

*Carol: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come" vs. 1, 2, 4

Hymn 100

Special Thanks to:

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