
prelude

ANNA FLYNN

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

Still, Still, Still – Salzburg Melody, arranged by Mark Hayes

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – From Plainsong, arranged by Jay Rouse

Comfort, Comfort Now My People – Louis Bourgeois, arranged by Larry Shackley

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;

Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;

Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

lighting of the christ candle

WHIT ANDERSON

The Christ Candle is the fifth Advent Candle, and its color is white, representing purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior; and he is the light who has come into a dark world. Those whose Savior is Jesus Christ are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

opening prayer

WHIT ANDERSON

Leader: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.

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 mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

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;
When like stars his children crowned, all in white shall be around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander; Music: Irby, Henry J. Gauntlett. Public Domain.

first lesson

JESSIE & EVAN KIRKPATRICK

The Reading | Genesis 3:8-19 (*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.*)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain

second lesson

ADRIENNE & BRYAN HERRON

The Reading | Genesis 22:15-18 (*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.*)

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Words: Charles Wesley (v. 1) & Mark Hunt (v. 2); Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard. Public Domain.

The Reading | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.*)

song

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

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 men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, 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.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears; Music: Richard Storrs Willis. Public Domain.

The Reading | Micah 5:2-5 (*The Messiah will come from lowly Bethlehem and shepherd his flock in strength and peace.*)

song**O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

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.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis Henry Redner. Public Domain.

The Reading | Luke 1:26-35, 38 (*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.*)

song

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by; born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.

The Reading | Luke 2:1, 3-7 (*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.*)

song**WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

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 Christians, 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.

Words: William Chatterton Dix; Music: Greensleeves, 16th century English melody. Public Domain.

The Reading | Luke 2:8-16 (*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.*)

song

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: Traditional English carol. Public Domain.

The Reading | Matthew 2:1-11 (*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.*)

song

WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star. *

** Chorus:*

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Earth to heaven replies. *

Words & Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. Public Domain.

The Reading | John 1:1-14 (*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.*)

song

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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; *

* *Chorus:*

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;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created; *

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God all glory in the highest!" *

Words & Music: John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

“A Savior is Born Unto You”**December 24, 2019****Luke 2:8-14**

Luke 2 ^{ESV} | 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Minister: Let us pray for the needs of the whole world;
All: For peace on earth and goodwill among all his people;

Minister: For unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build,
All: And especially in this, our own community.

Pause to silently pray.

Minister: And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name, the poor and helpless,
All: The cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn,

Minister: The lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children;
All: All those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Pause to silently pray.

Minister: Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

John 8:12 ESV | Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Please rise and sing the final hymn as the candlelight is passed.

****song**

SILENT NIGHT

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!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!”;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, “Alleluia” to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Gruber. Public Domain.

All: **Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word. Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives with great joy today and throughout our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

postlude

BROOKE LEWIS

And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them – From *Messiah* by G. F. Handel

He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd – From *Messiah* by G. F. Handel