

*Lessons & Carols Choral Service:  
"Come Ye Faithful"*



*A Cantata by Hal H. Hopson*

*December 22, 2021; 7:00 pm*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church*

*Fargo, North Dakota*

# Lessons and Carols Choral Service “Come Ye Faithful”

By Hal H. Hopson

**Note:** Congregational parts are **Bold**

## Carol Prelude

### A Bidding Prayer

P: Dear people of God, in this joyful season let us hear once more the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear the story of God's loving purpose as told by those who were led by God in bringing about the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child.

Let us pray... We remember the needs of the whole world. We pray for peace and justice on earth, and we remember especially those who are victims of war and strife.

We pray, in Christ's name, for the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, (*special intercessions*), all who are sick and who mourn, the lonely and unloved.

Finally, we remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions we pray the words which Christ has taught us:

**C: 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. Amen.**

## Carol

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us.  
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him From the cold would hide him.  
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, Heaven's King, Peace and Love he gave us.  
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo! Deo!

## Opening Proclamation

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**C: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.**

P: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*(John 1:1-5)*

P: This Word was made manifest in a great cloud of witnesses, who in their own time and place were a part of God's plan for the salvation of the world. Through Abraham and Sarah, through Moses and Elijah, the people of Israel and the prophets, and through the countless faithful of all the ages, God's redemptive work has been revealed.

We remember especially in this season those who were faithful witnesses to the Advent and Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes, we too are among that cloud of witnesses. We are called in our own time to heed the ancient cry of the prophet: "Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

**C: lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;**

P: lift it up, fear not;

**C: say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"**

*(Isaiah 40:9)*

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**C: and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."**

*(Isaiah 60:1)*

## Opening Hymn      *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

*(LSB 379, adapted)*

**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:      Refrain**

Refrain **O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,**

**Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;**

**Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God In the highest:**

Refrain

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**\*\* Witnesses to the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ \*\***  
**Zechariah and Elizabeth**

**Reading**

*(Abbreviated and adapted from Luke 1:5-13, 16, 59-79)*

There was a priest named Zechariah, and he and his wife Elizabeth were both righteous before God. They had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and getting on in years. While in the temple, an angel appeared to Zechariah and said: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you will name him John. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.” . . .

It was on the eighth day after John was born that Zechariah and Elizabeth took their newborn son to the temple to be circumcised. There Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for we will be given a mighty Savior. You, my son, will go before the Lord to prepare the way, and you will be called the prophet of the Most High. The dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide their feet into the way of peace.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol** “*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*”

*(LSB 344, adapted)*

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!  
News of great joy, News of great mirth; News of our merciful king’s birth.

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.  
News of great joy, News of great mirth; News of our merciful king’s birth.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge, and our great reward;  
O let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.  
News of great joy, News of great mirth; News of our merciful king’s birth.

All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.  
News of great joy, News of great mirth; News of our merciful king’s birth.

**Mary**

**Reading**

*Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And

the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**     *“Canticle of the Turning (Magnificat)”*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from west to east shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
You very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for justice tears ev’ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;

There are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:

God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,

“Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. Refrain.

## **Shepherds**

**Reading**

*(Abbreviated and adapted from Luke 2:8-12)*

In that region there were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**      *“Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep”*

Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep, Rise, and leave your flock of sheep;  
Angels from heav’n around are singing, Tidings of great joy are bringing.  
Shepherds! The chorus come and swell! Sing Noel, O sing Noel.

Hark! Even now the bells ring round, Listen to their merry sound;  
See how the stars afresh are glowing, All their brightest beams bestowing,  
Shepherds! The chorus come and swell! Sing Noel, O sing Noel.

Cometh at length the age of peace, Strife and sorrow now shall cease;  
Prophets foretold the wondrous story, the story of the heav’n born Prince of Glory.

Shepherds! Then up and quick away, Seek the Babe e’re break of day;  
He is the hope of ev’ry nation; All in him shall find salvation.  
Shepherds! The chorus come and swell! Sing Noel, O sing Noel!

**The Angels**

**Reading**

*Luke 2:13-14*

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 God favors!”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**      *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

*(LSB 380)*

**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 angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain**

**Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail th’incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

**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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

**\*\* Our Witness to the Nativity \*\***

**Reading**

*Luke 2:8-20*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the 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 for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**      ***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”***

*(LSB 388)*

**Refrain:    Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain**

**Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessèd Christmas morn. Refrain**

**Reading**

*Matthew 2:1-11*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**      ***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

*(LSB 361)*

**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;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

**Reading**

*John 1:1-14*

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**      ***“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”***

*(LSB 384)*

**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.**

**O ye 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.**

(Please stand)

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.**

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**Reading**

*Luke 2:15-20*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Carol

### *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

(LSB 363, adapted)

**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.**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,  
Schlaf im himmlischer Ruh', Schlaf im himmlischer Ruh'.**

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 Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend them light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is Born.**

Text: Public domain

## Closing Prayer

**P:** O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive the Word made flesh as our redeemer, we may one day with sure confidence behold the Son of Righteousness, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end.

**C: Amen.**

## The Blessing

**P:** Go now in peace, according to the word of the Lord; for your eyes have seen the salvation which has been prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of God's people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

May Christ, the Incarnate One, fill you with inward peace and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## Carol Postlude

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Thanks to all who participated in this service!  
Soli Deo Gloria! (To God be the Glory!)

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Officiant: Rev. Bernie Worrall  
Readers: Steve Larson  
Vasantha Soori  
Organist: Caleb Lawson  
Violin: Jonathan Schulz  
Soloist: Carolyn Worrall

Soprano: Deb Bubach  
Barbara Downs  
Connie Grondahl  
Sammi Hintz  
Carolyn Worrall

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