

Music – Geoff Glead

Introit: "Song of the Madonna" by Michael Head, sung by Jane Whitworth

Call to worship “The true light that gives light to all people was coming into the world”
(John 1;9)

HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem (Essential Carols. King’s College Cambridge) Disc 1/11

<p>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</p> <p>How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.</p>	<p>O holy Child of Bethlehem Descend to us, we pray Cast out our sin and enter in Be born to us today We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Immanuel</p> <p>Traditional</p>
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Third Candle of Advent: One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.(*)

Prayer Thanksgiving and Confession - Lord's Prayer

Bible Reading 1: Genesis 22; 15-18 Read by Lindsey Miller

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Carol I saw three ships (Essential Carols, King’s College – Cambridge) Disk 1/4

<p>1) I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas day, on Christmas day; I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas day in the morning.</p>	<p>4) Pray whither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas day, on Christmas day? Pray whither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas day in the morning?</p>	<p>7) And all the angels in Heav’n shall sing, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the angels in Heav’n shall sing, On Christmas day in the morning.</p>
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<p>2) And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas day, on Christmas day? And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas day in the morning?</p>	<p>5) O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas day, on Christmas day, O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas day in the morning.</p>	<p>8) And all the souls on Earth shall sing, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the souls on Earth shall sing, On Christmas day in the morning.</p>
<p>3) Our Saviour Christ and His lady, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; Our Saviour Christ and His lady, On Christmas day in the morning.</p>	<p>6) And all the bells on Earth shall ring, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the bells on Earth shall ring, On Christmas day in the morning.</p>	<p>9) Then let us all rejoice amain, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; Then let us rejoice amain, On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>XVII century Author unknown</p>

Poem: Advent (Patric Dickinson) Read by Pam Western

Bible Reading 2: Isaiah 11; 1-9 Read by Liz Glead

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and
with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol See amid the winter's snow - (Annie Lennox: A Christmas Cornucopia) 4

<p>See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below, See the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.</p> <p>Chorus: <i>Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!</i> <i>Hail, redemption's happy dawn!</i> <i>Sing through all Jerusalem,</i> <i>Christ is born in Bethlehem.</i></p>	<p>Say, ye holy shepherds, say What your joyful news today; Wherefore have ye left your sheep On the lonely mountain steep?</p> <p>Sacred infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine, Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this.</p>
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Poem: Moonless darkness stands between (Gerard Manley Hopkins) Read by Geoff Glead

Prayer Intercession led by Jane Whitworth

Dedication of the offerings

Bible Reading 3: Luke 1; 46-55 Read by Liz Gibney

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

HYMN Hark the herald angels sing (Essential Carols. King's College Cambridge) Disc 1/1

<p><u>Hark! the herald angels sing:</u> "Glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled" Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem" Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"</p> <p>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 the incarnate Deity Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"</p>	<p>Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"</p> <p>Charles Wesley</p>
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Blessing (*)

May God wrap us in integrity, clothe us in salvation,
and adorn us with beauty and joy.

And may the blessing of God, Protector, Perfecter and
Spirit of Joy surround us all our nights and days. AMEN

Music - Geoff Gleed