

***About this service.** The service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of mankind, the promise of a Redeemer, and the birth of Jesus. It uses Scriptures from Genesis, the Prophets and the Gospels, with Christmas hymns interspersed. The service was first held in 1918 at Kings College Chapel in England. The order of worship lends itself to participation by many people. Please note that we will sing only one stanzas of each carol. This is a time to both participate and to reflect on what Christmas means to us – the coming of the Messiah who would provide us atonement forever and would show us, in His daily life, a model of what God calls us to in our daily lives. To God be the Glory.*

## **A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE 2020**



### **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER, MAINE**

**“We are a welcoming family of faith  
who proclaims God’s love and grace in words and deeds,  
in covenant with each other and the community.”**

*Worshipping and Serving since 1802*

**50 Main St. Sumner, ME 04292    email: [esummercc@gmail.com](mailto:esummercc@gmail.com)**

**PRELUDE** - *Lighting of the first 4 candles*

**PRAYER**

Leader: Beloved in Christ, let us prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels. Let us read 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. Let us make this church glad with our carols of praise. But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth. Let us at this time remember the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children. Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**CAROL**  
**#128**

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 to-night.

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**FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent:

" Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.  
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

" Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat *of* it all the days of your life.  
Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread til you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.”

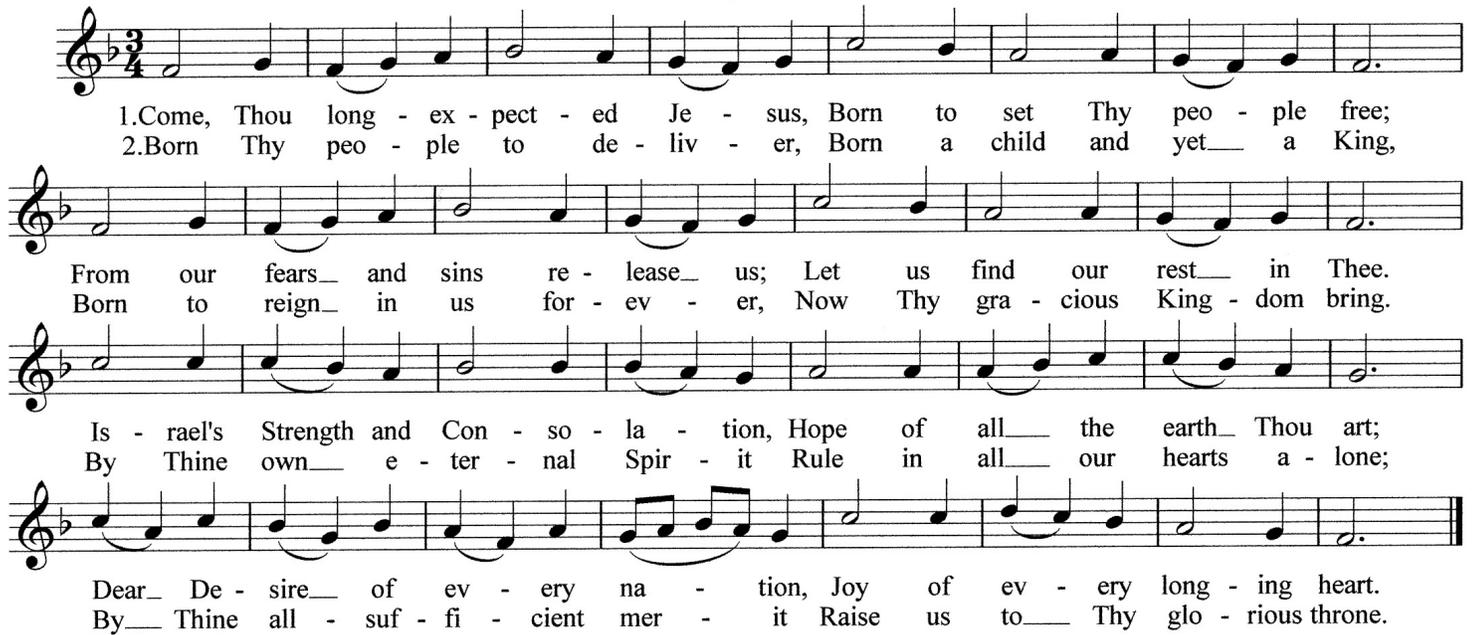
*Thanks be to God.*

## CAROL

Charles Wesley, 1744

### Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855



1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a King,  
From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious King - dom bring.  
Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22: 15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

*Thanks be to God.*

## CAROL

#124

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King!*

## THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2, 6, 7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.  
For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of *His* government and peace  
*There will be* no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**  
**#118**

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.

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#### **FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 11: 1-3a, 4a, 6-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.  
His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.  
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea.

*Thanks be to God.*

## CAROL

German, 15th century Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming Michael Praetorius, A.D. 1609

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,  
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.  
With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.  
It came a flow'r-et bright, A - mid the cold of win - ter, When half-spent was the night.  
To show God's love a - right She bore to men a Sav - iour, When half-spent was the night.

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

*Thanks be to God.*

CAROL #154 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.*

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**  
**#131**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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**SEVENTH LESSON**      Luke 2: 8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!”

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**    **#120**

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!*  
*Born is the King of Israel!*

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**EIGHTH LESSON**      Matthew 2: 1-12

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

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 have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

*‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”*

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**  
**#134**

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

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## **NINTH LESSON**

John 1: 1-14

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.*

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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 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 beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**  
**#130**

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.  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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## PRAYER

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with thy spirit.

*Leader:* Let us pray. O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**All:** Amen.

## CAROL #125

Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
"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 the angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King."*

## BLESSING

*Leader:* Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**All:** Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

### PASSING THE LIGHT

## CANDLELIGHT CAROL #122

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!  
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.

**POSTLUDE**

*MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL. MAY THE GOOD NEWS OF THE SEASON FILL YOUR LIFE.*