

*Music Participants*

**GUEST SINGERS:** Elana Gleason, Hilary Morris, Jay Morris, Annabelle Welford-Small

**TRUMPET:** Jack Yates, Van Zimmerman

**FLUTE:** Leo Molinoff

**ALTO SAXOPHONE:** Xander Yates

**YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Robin Harris

**ORGAN AND DIRECTOR:** Paul Harris

**WORSHIP TEAM DIRECTOR & CHOIR ASSISTANT:** Cynthia Harris

**WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS:**

Justin Runyon, Guitar  
Todd Proctor, Drums  
Elana Gleason, vocals  
Leo Molinoff, flute  
Holly Burt, vocals  
Paul Harris, keyboard  
Cynthia Harris, keyboard

**CHOIR MEMBERS:**

Cecil Burt  
Holly Burt  
Marsha Burt  
Ted Dougherty  
Cynthia Harris  
Vange Lutfy  
Linda Nelson  
Nan Hamilton  
Philipa Kalungi  
Demi Nicholas

Eleni Nicholas  
Elia Nicholas  
Andrew Palmer  
Josephine Palmer  
Scott Southern  
Margie Springer  
Sarah Tripodi  
Genevieve Voss  
Helen Voss  
Randi Wood

**YOUTH CHOIR MEMBERS:**

Charlotte Bamford  
Ben Braddock  
Imogen Braddock  
Claire Cooper  
Lilly Dobose  
Darden O'Dea  
Lexi Paschaloudis  
Lila Race  
Anna Sanders  
Anna Catherine Sparrow  
Pierce Thompson



**HOLY TRINITY**  
**A N G L I C A N C H U R C H**

*Proclaim. Exalt. Serve.*

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

## WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Dear Friends and Family,

What a joy to celebrate this holy season with you! If this is your first visit to Holy Trinity we are so glad you have chosen to join us for this special service of Lessons and Carols.

The first service of Lessons and Carols was held in a large wooden shed in Truro, England, on Christmas Eve, 1880. The shed was a temporary structure serving as the Cathedral of Truro at the time, and the service was drawn up by E.W. Benson, dean of the cathedral, who would later become Archbishop of Canterbury. Benson arranged a sequence of 9 lessons followed by carols. Each lesson was read by a member of the church ranging from a small boy up to the Bishop.

In 1918 this service was adapted for use at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. To this day the service is celebrated every Christmas at King's College and broadcast around the world by the BBC. For many years the service has begun with a soloist singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City.

Our service today picks up on this great tradition. The nine lessons you will hear are the same ones read around the world this Christmas season. Interspersed between these readings we will sing favorite hymns, listen to praises sung by soloists and choirs and ponder the significance of what we hear through a sequence of short meditations.

It is my hope and prayer that through this service we will be drawn into the great drama of creation that comes to a climax in the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior. To him be all honor and glory now and throughout all ages. Amen!

Yours in Christ,



John Yates, Rector

*Childcare is available for 0-5 year olds  
during this service in the Young Children's Wing*

## THE DISMISSAL

Officiant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth rejoicing in the coming of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo (Good Christian friends, rejoice!),  
14th century melody*

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.  
*All:* **And also with you.**  
*Officiant:* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*Officiant:* The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**CAROL:** *Hark the herald angels sing* (all stand and sing)

**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 th' angelic host proclaim: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'**  
**Hark! the herald angels sing: 'Glory to the new-born 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 th' Incarnate Deity,**  
**Pleased as man with men to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel!**  
**Hark! the herald angels sing: 'Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!'**

## A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

### PRELUDE

*On Christmas Night,*  
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.*

*When sin departs before Thy grace, then life and health come in its place:  
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new born King.*

*All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;  
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."*

### WELCOME

### INTROIT

*O sweetest Lord Jesus (O Jesulein Süs),*  
J.S. Bach

*O sweetest Lord Jesus, tender and mild, The Father's will, you have fulfilled:  
In human form, you came from heav'n, That greatest gift, so freely giv'n:  
O sweetest Lord Jesus, holy child.*

### THE BIDDING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels who proclaim the glorious good news of the Gospel and in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem, and see what God has brought to pass, a Child lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the good news of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought to us who have received this holy Child; and let us make this place resound with our songs of praise to Him.

But first, as we gather, let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission of the Church, that we may proclaim and live out His Gospel with boldness and humility, and especially for those in this country and within our city. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His Name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love Him, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

(silence)

Lastly, let us give thanks to God for all those who rejoice in the hope of Christ 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 our Lord Jesus, we for evermore will be one body. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**CAROL: Once in Royal David's City** (congregation please remain seated)

*sung by youth choir* 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.

*sung by choir* 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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

(congregation stands and sings)

**We like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display  
Heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day.  
Yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
For that child who seemed so helpless, is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

(the congregation sits for all scripture readings)

**LESSON I: Genesis 3:8-19** 9:00 Reader: Tim Roth  
11:00 Reader: JD Hamby

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

*In that humble town of Bethlehem, the Christ was born.  
The great Lord of earth and of heaven has come to save us all.*

*A child to us is born, is born to us in Bethlehem.  
The great Lord is come to save us all from death and sin.*

**Carol: All from Saba shall come,** (sung by octet)  
Jacob Handl (16th c.)

*All from Saba shall come; gold and frankincense bringing,  
And praises to the Lord announcing. Alleluia.*

**LESSON IX: John 1: 1-14** (please stand) 9:00 Reader: John Yates  
11:00 Reader: John Calvert

*The Word become Flesh.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

(remain standing)

**Carol: Of the Father's love begotten** (sung by soloist)

*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!*

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

9:00 Reader: Katie Keith

11:00 Reader: Joe Cannon

*The visit of the Magi.*

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "'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.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Reader: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION IV**

Reader: Jack Carson

**Carol:** *A child is born to us,* (sung by octet)  
Dutch Carol; setting by Guilielmus Messaus (17th c.)

*A child to us is born, is born to us in Bethlehem.  
The great Lord is come to save us all from death and sin.*

*Three kings came unto Jerusalem, for to seek the newborn King.  
"We saw His star and now have come to pay our homage to that Child."  
Then King Herod sought to learn where the child was to be born.  
They read that the King of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem.*

*Then King Herod, in his wrath, sought for to have the infant slain.  
But by the hand of God, his evil was brought to naught that day.*

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Reader: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION I**

9:00 Reader: Hunter Winstead

11:00 Reader: Elizabeth Ramsey

**CAROL:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (all stand and sing)

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

**God from God, Light from Light Eternal, Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only begotten, Son of the Father. Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest.' Refrain**

**LESSON II:** Genesis 22: 15-18

9:00 Reader: Lynn Edwards

11:00 Reader: Philipa Kalungi

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

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL:** *Infant holy, infant lowly,* (sung by youth choir)  
A Polish Carol, setting by Jeffrey Blersch

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing.  
Christ the child is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you. Christ the child was born for you.*

**LESSON III:** Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

9:00 Reader: Michelle Norris

11:00 Reader: Willa Kane

*To us a child is born.*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL:** *Angels we have heard on high*

(all stand and sing)

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.  
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

Officiant: *Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Thorn and Thistle* (sung by worship team)

*To a world of thorn and thistle, shadowed still by Eden's fall  
On a night so unexpected, enters the Lord of all.  
In a cold and stony manger, Swaddled in a linen cloth,  
Into darkness, into danger, Born now is heaven's love.  
Holy hands with fragile fingers, our redemption in His veins,  
To a world of thorn and thistle, Jesus the Savior came.*

*Child of heaven, Man of sorrows, bitter is the earth's betrayal,  
Soon our pride will be the hammer, our sin will be the nail.  
Holy eyes in infant face, a world of love runs in His veins,  
To a world of thorn and thistle, Jesus, the Savior, came.*

*Oh, rejoice! He comes to rescue, our redemption in His veins,  
To a world of thorn and thistle, Jesus, the Savior, came.  
Oh, rejoice! He comes to rescue, our redemption in His veins,  
To a world of thorn and thistle, Jesus, the Savior, came.*

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**CAROL:** *The first noel*, arr. Bob Chilcott (sung by choir)

*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.*

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*They look-éd up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain*

*And by the light of that same star, three wi-se men ca-me from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain*

*Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in His presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain*

*Then let us all, with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and wi-th His blood our li-fe hath bought.  
Refrain*

**LESSON VII:** Luke 2: 8-16

9:00 Reader: Darden O'Dea  
11:00 Reader: Kate Berman

*The shepherds and the angels.*

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION II**

9:00 Reader: Brian Stoker

11:00 Reader: Christopher Hays

**CAROL:** *Lute-Book Lullaby*,  
arr. Rutter

(sung by women's ensemble)

*Sweet was the song the Virgin sang, When she to Bethlem Juda came  
And was delivered of a son, That blessed Jesus hath to name:  
'Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby, Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby.'*

*'Sweet babe,' sang she, 'my son, And eke [also] a Saviour born,  
Who hast vouch safed from on high To visit us that were forlorn:  
Lalula, lalulaby. Sweet babe,' sang she, And rocked him sweetly on her knee.*

**LESSON IV:** Isaiah 11: 1-9

9:00 Reader: Liz Dasher

11:00 Reader: Margaret Duke

*The branch from Jesse.*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And 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 the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL:** *Lo, how a rose*

*(all stand and sing)*

*Solo: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

**All:** **Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.**

**LESSON V:** Luke 1: 26-38

9:00 Reader: Les Morrison

11:00 Reader: Brown Cunningham

*The birth of Jesus foretold.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION III**

9:00 Reader: Isabel Yates

11:00 Reader: Rachel Starr

**CAROL:** *What child is this*

*(all stand and sing)*

**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 donkey are feeding?  
Good Christian, 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.**

**Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby.  
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**LESSON VI:** Luke 2:1-7

9:00 Reader: Becca Wright

11:00 Reader: Amy Jo Horne

*The birth of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**