

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 27, 2020



COMMUNION DURING COVID-19

Welcome to worship! We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion today. Please have elements ready and placed in a way that you have easy access during our communion liturgy. Are there people you know who are probably worshiping alone? How about giving them a call, inviting them to celebrate the meal over the phone? For more information about our communion practice during the time of covid-19, please check out our resources tab on our website: www.glcwen.org.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 288, *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

GREETING

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
- C** **By day and night he shines for all to see.**
- P** Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
- C** **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
- P** God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
- C** **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** Jesus is the light of the world.
- C** **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
- P** Sing to God a new song!
- C** **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

OPENING PRAYER

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts.

- C** **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

God speaks to us in scripture and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Word of God, word of life.

☛ Thanks be to God.

FIRST CAROL

ELW 284, 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt.
Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.
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SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Word of God, word of life.

☪ Thanks be to God.

SECOND CAROL

ELW 291, *Let Our Gladness Have No End*



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown
Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PAN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Word of God, word of life.

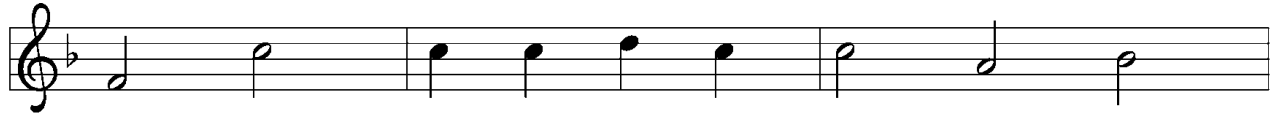
☑ Thanks be to God.

THIRD CAROL

ELW 272, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, word of life.

☛ Thanks be to God.

FOURTH CAROL

ELW 274, *On Christmas Night*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Word of God, word of life.

☪ Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

P In his light, draw all to the manger

C **to sing for joy with the angels.**

P In the brightness of his life

C **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

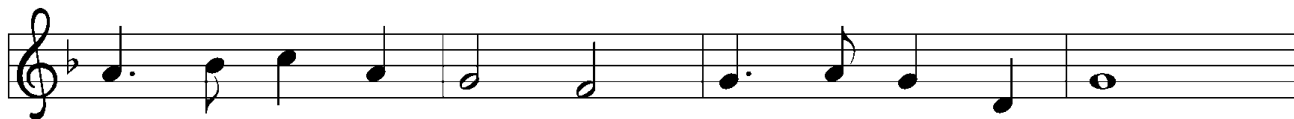
P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.**

Amen.

FIFTH CAROL

ELW 294, *In the Bleak Midwinter*



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Please pray whatever version you prefer*)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

- P** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
- C** **Praise God, all creatures here below!**
- P** You are the shepherds telling the story.
- C** **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**
- P** You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
- C** **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**
- P** You are the angels announcing peace.
- C** **We live with joy and go now in peace.**
- P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 299, *Cold December Flies Away*



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

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